

# THE TIMES



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THURSDAY  
30p  
WEEKDAY



Is this the most moving performance of her career? FILMS, page 37

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OPPORTUNITIES

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THURSDAY  
30p  
WEEKDAY

## PoWs attack Emperor's speech



### Anger over 'deep sorrow' reference

By ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO, MICHAEL BINYON, ALAN HAMILTON AND JOANNA BAILE

FORMER prisoners of war were angered yesterday after reports that Emperor Akihito did not express "deep sorrow" about the victims of war in his speech at Buckingham Palace.

Language experts said that the Emperor had actually said: "Our hearts feel deep pain". But the key words were added to the English translation given to the Queen and Tony Blair, which read: "At the thought of the scars of war that they bear, our hearts are filled with deep sorrow and pain."

The discrepancy prompted an immediate row over whether the Japanese had intentionally tried to mislead their English-speaking audience — a claim they vehemently denied last night. The Japanese Embassy said that the phrase "deep sorrow" had been added to make the Emperor's meaning unambiguous.

Japanese Foreign Ministry and Imperial Palace officials had toiled for weeks over the Emperor's speech, striving for phraseology that would appease Britain's former PoWs without antagonising Japanese nationalists. A Japanese Palace insider said: "To have



Emperor Akihito of Japan waving to crowds while he and Empress Michiko visited Cardiff Castle with the Prince of Wales yesterday

the Emperor say the words 'deep sorrow' would have come unacceptably close to an apology for some people in Japan."

An Embassy spokesman said the true text was the Japanese one, but there had been fears that the phrase "pain in our hearts" might be unclear to a British audience, which might take it literally and believe that the Emperor referred to a physical heart condition. "For that reason, the phrase 'deep sorrow' was added in the unofficial translation into English, to make it clear that this is what a Japanese listener would have understood the Emperor to mean by the phrase."

A senior Japanese Embassy official said later that the speech had been translated in Tokyo after careful deliberation by the Foreign Ministry and the Imperial Household Agency. "We never intended to mislead. We tried to get the best sense of what the Japanese is saying. The English translation is the true feeling of the Emperor, and we cannot distort what the Emperor expresses."

The key phrase, according

to the official, was *kokoro no itami*, meaning "pain in our hearts". He said: "Itami means pain, physical pain. Had the Emperor said *itami* alone, that would have distorted its meaning. But to say *kokoro no itami* means mental pain, which is a much wider meaning."

Foreign Office Japanese language experts agreed that the English transcript was a "fair and accurate translation between languages that often do not translate literally."

Organisations representing former PoWs were angered, however, by what they saw as a "deliberate misrepresenta-

tion". Arthur Titherington of the Japanese Labour Camps Survivors' Association said: "This is outrageous trickery, a positive intention to mislead. I am glad this has come to light, it is a damn good piece of work. It really does show that the Japanese are telling us fairy stories."

"We have been saying this all along about the Japanese apologies — they are given an English interpretation that the Japanese think we want to hear. Even Tony Blair used a Japanese government interpreter when he visited Japan."

Mr Titherington added that he would not be happy until

the Japanese government used the word *shazai*, one of the strongest forms of apology.

Ann Levick of the Association of British Civilian Internees, Far East Region, said: "This is an absolutely disgraceful deception. They should either apologise properly or not at all, rather than fobbing us off like this."

The difference between the Japanese and English texts of Emperor Akihito's speech was confirmed by Professor Drew Gerstle, Professor of Japanese at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies. He said: "The interpreters have added a little," said

Professor Gerstle, "but in an exam you would not say this was incorrect."

Professor Gerstle said that the Japanese word *kanashimi*, for "I feel sorrow" or "I feel sadness", appeared at the beginning of the paragraph where the Emperor said: "It truly saddens me, however, that the relationship nurtured between our two countries should have been marred by the Second World War."

But it was not repeated at the point of emphasis, where

Continued on page 2, col 5

Minimum discord, page 7  
Court Circular, page 24

## Blair heads for union row over £3.60 minimum wage

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister is heading for a further confrontation with trade unions after receiving a report from the Low Pay Commission that recommends a minimum wage of £3.60 an hour.

The figure, which is likely to be backed by Tony Blair, contrasts with the rate of more than £4 an hour recommended by the TUC. Yesterday the CBI indicated that it could accept the commission's figure.

Employers had said earlier that any figure above £3.40 would cost jobs, but Sir Colin Marshall, President of the CBI, said yesterday that he could live with £3.50 or £3.60 an hour.

The TUC had called for a figure of at least £4 an hour and suggested that that should be a national rate with no exemptions or lower rates for younger employees.

Unions such as Unison, the public sector workers' union, have called for £4.61 an hour under a formula tied to male average earnings. A minimum wage of £3.60 an hour would mean about £170 for a 38-hour week, or just over £7,000 a year.

The Government has been pushing privately for an exemption for those under 18 and a lower rate for those under 26. About 1.5 million workers will get the full hourly rate if those under 21 get a lower rate.

The report from the com-

## Hague falls out of favour with Tories

By JILL SHERMAN

WILLIAM HAGUE'S personal rating among Conservative supporters has dropped sharply this month despite the Tories' reasonable showing in the local elections, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*.

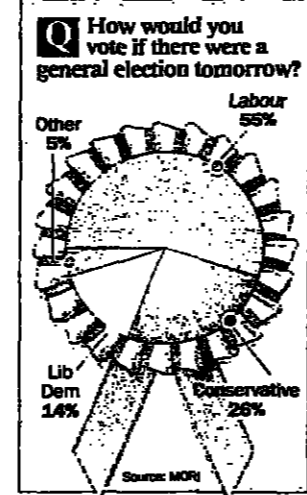
Labour's rating stays at 55 per cent while the Tories have dropped one percentage point to 26 per cent. The Liberal Democrats are unchanged at 14 per cent.

Mr Hague's personal ratings as Tory leader among the public has dropped from a net -15 to -25 points, measured by those satisfied less than dissatisfied. Last month only 38 per cent of Tories were satisfied with his performance while 45 per cent of Tories were satisfied with Mr Blair's.

This seven-point gap has now widened to 18 points.

The poll was taken shortly after Mr Hague's Euro-speech in Fontainebleau when he delivered a strident attack on the single currency.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,832



## Owen winner lifts England

Michael Owen, 18, became the youngest footballer to score for England when he struck the winner in a 1-0 victory against Morocco in Casablanca. Glenn Hoddle, the England manager, made nine changes, from the side that faced Saudi Arabia, but his plans were disrupted by a knee injury to Ian Wright, whose World Cup prospects look slim. Page 52

### Kremlin crisis

President Yeltsin called a crisis meeting at the Kremlin after a wave of panic sent Russian shares plunging yesterday as domestic banks, brokers and foreign investors dumped stock. Interest rates were raised to 150 per cent. Pages 27, 29

### Nuclear test

Pakistan has completed preparations for an underground nuclear test at its Baluchistan desert site and could conduct a controlled explosion within hours of deciding to do so, according to American intelligence officials. Page 18

## Parking ticket that turned justice upside down

By PAUL WILKINSON

THERE was nothing wrong with the way Robert Walls parked his car, but he was distinctly reckless in the way he positioned his 40p parking permit. He stuck it on his passenger window, upside down.

That was enough to earn him a £15 fixed penalty near the market square of Beverley, East Yorkshire, where a traffic warden decided to take a swift line on this sort of

## Justice upside down

the fine was quashed by East Riding council, whose officials admitted that the unidentified warden "was perhaps a little over-zealous".

Some staff at the traffic office were reported to be hysterical with laughter at the penalty notice with the offence listed as "Ticket displayed upside down."

Mr Walls, 43, a special-needs teacher from nearby Walkington, had paid 40p to park in a street near the

## Justice upside down

Ford Escort well inside the one-hour time limit. He said: "It's not like I'd forgotten to buy the ticket. I didn't realise this was an offence. Wardens get a bad press and things like this don't exactly promote them."

Mike Dainty, the council's principal traffic officer, said: "If a ticket is upside down it makes it more difficult to read, but provided it was valid I would suggest the attendant was perhaps a little

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THE TIMES

*The Times* is the medical paper that brings you Dr Thomas Stuttaford (page 20).

While *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent* each costs 45p a day, and *The Daily Mail* and *The Express* each costs 35p, the 74 broadsheet pages of *The Times* today cost only 30p.

Because of the quality, range and value of *The Times*, its sales have more than doubled in the past four years, particularly among young readers and the affluent ABCs.

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# Scots come to the rescue of les Vikings

### Gillian Harris reports on an epic longboat voyage interrupted by a mishap in the North Sea

THEY set out in a Viking longboat from Norway for the shores of Britain, intending to strike deep into the heart of the north country before continuing an epic journey to western France. Unfortunately, they had to be rescued by a helicopter off the coast of Scotland yesterday when their boat, *Thorvald*, sprung a leak. Last night they were sheltering in the Seamen's Mission in Fraserburgh.

It was an ignominious start to an intrepid adventure, and hardly lived up to the reputation forged by the raping and pillaging Vikings of 1,100 years ago. Six French sailors who were supposed to be rowing from Bergen to Nantes in a replica 9th century wooden vessel ran into difficulties 200 miles into the first leg of their journey. Strong winds and high waves in the North Sea threatened to engulf their 27ft boat, forcing them to radio the Aberdeen coastguard.

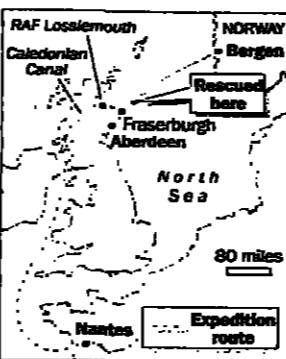
A lifeboat from Fraserburgh and a Sea King helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth found the stricken boat 16 miles off the northeast coast of Scotland. The dejected crew, who set sail on Saturday, were crouched in several inches of water.

Yesterday, as he thawed

out in the Seamen's Mission, Yannick Favro, the 42-year-old skipper from Tours, said: "We were trying to make the same journey as the Vikings used to from Norway to France, but it became too difficult when we reached the North Sea. Big waves were breaking over the boat. I had to telephone to be rescued."

The rest of his crew — Alain Launay, Alain Ville, Yannick Brardor, Didier Paillet and Laurent Colmont — made the most of their unscheduled stop, enjoying hot meals courtesy of the mission staff.

M Favro, meanwhile, was



Yannick Favro was hoping to emulate the Vikings' epic journeys to France

planning to get his purpose-built longship back in the water. "It needs minor repairs. There might be a small leak. Then we will continue." He rejected a suggestion that it was foolhardy to cross rough seas in a frail craft without an engine. "Everything was okay," he said. "I

was surprised to see the helicopter because everything was alright with the crew. All I wanted was a boat to put a rope round my boat and it would have been okay."

The next leg of the voyage will see another break with Viking tradition. The crew

will row down the Caledonian Canal, which did not exist in the 9th century. Then, Vikings hoisted their longboats on their heads and marched across the Great Glen from Inverness to Fort William before sailing down the west coast of England and Wales to France.

"We want to continue like Viking explorers and be as authentic as possible, but it will not be exactly the same. We will sail across Scotland. But I hope it will be an adventure," M Favro said, somewhat ingenuously.

A spokesman for Aberdeen coastguard said: "They got caught out by a combination of bad luck and bad weather. There is not much space in their longboat so once water started coming in, we had to get the crew off."

"I think they got a bit of a fright and of course their journey will not be as authentic as they had hoped. Back in Viking times there was no such thing as the Fraserburgh lifeboat."



The Thorvald safe in Fraserburgh harbour, where it will undergo repairs



The crew of the Thorvald enjoying a hot meal in the Seamen's Mission

## School bails out chaplain on German porn charge

By Deborah Colclutt and Victoria Fletcher

THE bursar of a leading independent school last night flew to Germany to bring back its second chaplain, arrested for allegedly trying to sell a pornographic video, after school funds were used to bail him out of prison.

Tonbridge School, Kent, handed a court in Munich £1,200 (3,000 marks) to secure the release of the Rev Andrew Swindells after learning he could not afford the sum.

Tim Devlin, a spokesman for the school, last night said: "The bail was paid from emergency school funds. We have wanted to do anything we could to help Mr Swindells and think all parents would support us trying to help a member of staff who has got into difficulty." The bursar, Ray Hart, flew club class from Heathrow to Munich yesterday afternoon to escort Mr Swindells on a school-funded return flight home hours later.

German police yesterday said the 32-year-old second school chaplain, who was arrested in Munich allegedly attempting to sell child pornography, was lured into their trap on Sunday by an undercover officer. Officers at Munich central police station claim that they managed to make contact with Mr Swindells after an anonymous tip-off.

A meeting was arranged between Mr Swindells and an undisclosed number of plainclothed officers posing as potential purchasers at Munich central train station, where the arrest took place.

"We have a special child pornography observation force which monitors the Internet and magazines for possible contacts. We received information from a contact in Germany that he was in Munich with material to sell," said a spokesman, who added that British officers had seized further material from premises belonging to Mr Swindells in England.



Swindells: due to fly home with bursar

## Doctor is accused of pursuing patients

By Shirley English

A DOCTOR went on trial yesterday accused of making unwelcome sexual advances towards eight women patients more than half his age.

Dr James Hammond, 52, from Erskine, Renfrewshire, allegedly abused his position by pursuing women who visited his surgery and offering to be their boyfriend. One 16-year-old who asked him for the contraceptive pill was distressed when he allegedly said he wanted to have sex with her in the consulting room.

It is alleged that he used consultations to make suggestive remarks and to ask patients out for a date. He is accused of alarming young women by either writing them personal letters, turning up at their homes uninvited, or touching them inappropriately during examinations.

Dr Hammond denies nine charges of breach of the peace against female patients, in which it is alleged that he conducted himself in a disorderly manner between October 1990 and April 1997.

Paisley Sheriff Court heard that he placed patients in a state of fear and alarm and twice made indecent suggestions, kissed one on the mouth and another on the face.

One witness yesterday told how she had visited Dr Hammond with her mother as a teenager between 1993-95. She felt uncomfortable when he began to compliment her on her looks and ask if she was dating anyone.

When she was 16 she asked for the contraceptive pill. She told the court: "I told him I was going on holiday and he asked if I had a boyfriend. When I said no, he told me, 'I want to be your first.' He said 'I'm being serious. I want to make love to you.'"

Too shocked to answer, the woman, now 20, said she got up to leave the room, and as she did so, he warned her not to tell anyone.

Another witness, a young single mother, claimed that Dr Hammond gave her his home telephone number and told her to ring him. Later, she said, he turned up on her doorstep and asked her out for a drink. The trial continues.

## Midfield to striker: check

By Philip Delves Broughton

TO THE outsider, football may look like a game of huffing, puffing and fancy footwork. The cognoscenti, however, have always known it is also a game of complicated tactics and mental warfare. No surprise then that teenagers in South London

taught them the game. Since then, many have seen their football skills improve.

Ruben Lawrence, of the electronics firm Saltek, which is sponsoring the trials and the Kingsdale team, said: "The players are becoming aware of the consequences of certain moves and this is

the potential benefits to footballers of chess at Kingsdale School in Dulwich, where the under-13 football squad have been given an electronic set.

If the tests are successful, chess sets could become a feature of football clubs nationwide. Only a couple of the

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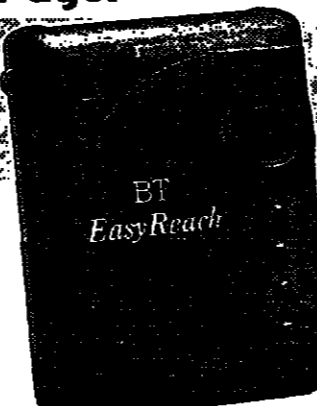
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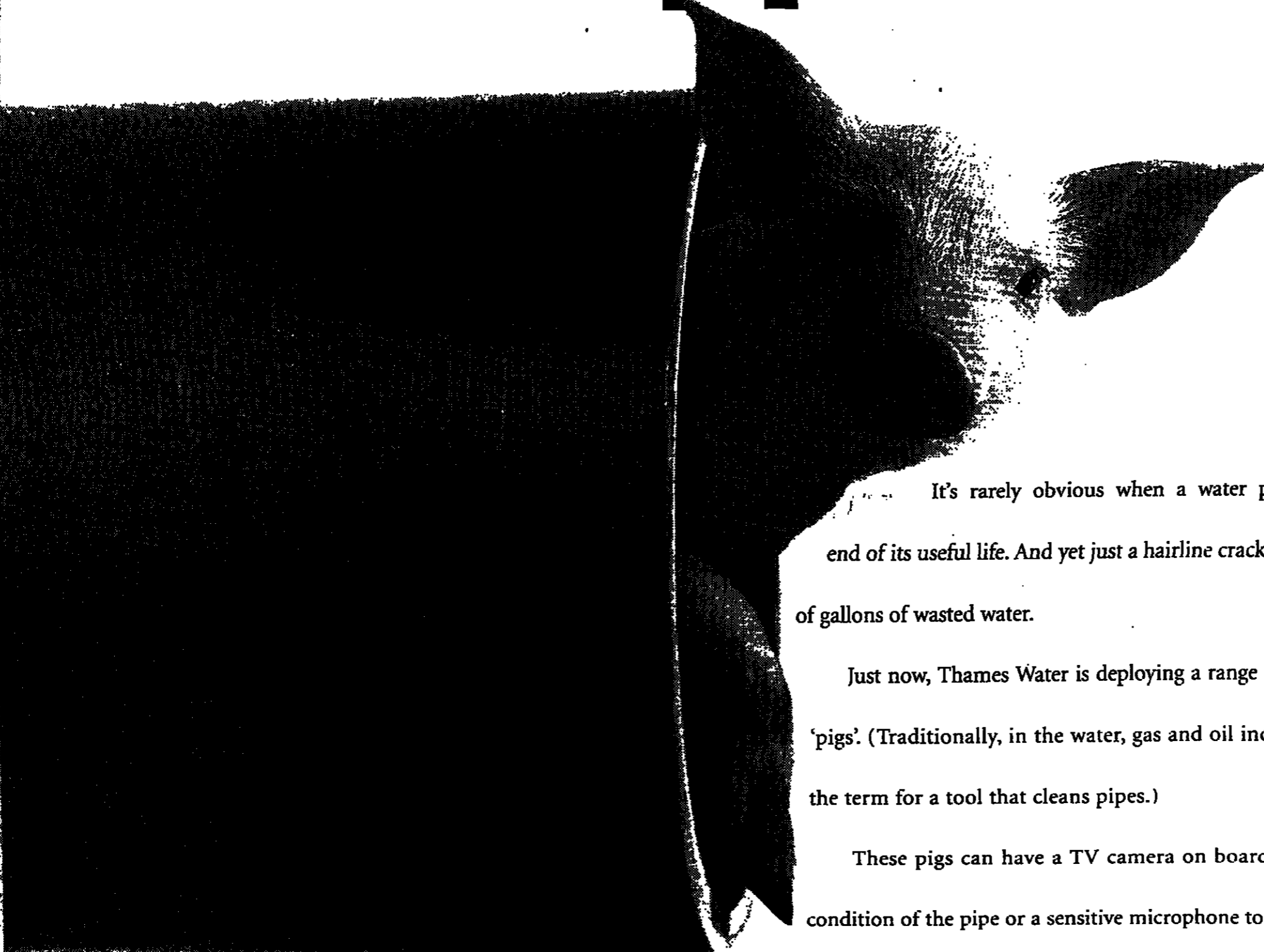
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THE TIMES...  
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Just now, Thames Water is deploying a range of clever devices called 'pigs'. (Traditionally, in the water, gas and oil industries, 'pig' has been the term for a tool that cleans pipes.)

These pigs can have a TV camera on board to show the internal condition of the pipe or a sensitive microphone to listen for leaks.

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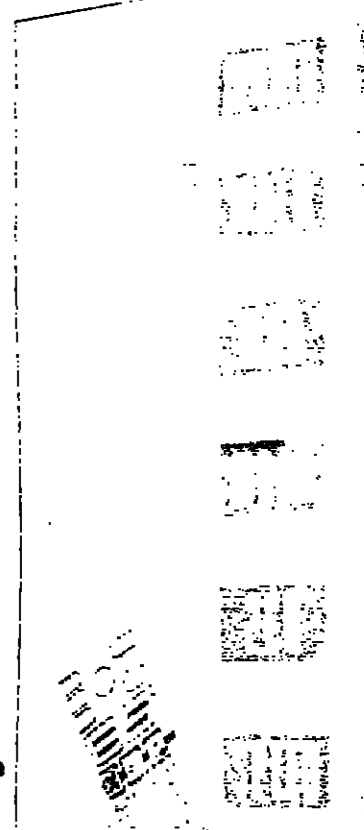
Soon, we hope to send them down the oldest of London's water mains. It's just part of our programme of action that has already reduced leakage in London by more than 20%.

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**A flow of good ideas.**



The E-Z Test...

0800



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aerodynamics. A 30% reduction...  
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# Drugs czar says Ecstasy test gives false confidence

A KIT that allows drug-users to test the purity of Ecstasy tablets was yesterday condemned as an "immoral money-making venture" by the head of the Government's anti-drugs campaign.

Promoters of the E-Z Test, which they hope to sell to clubgoers for £5, said that it would not encourage drug use but would help to protect those already taking the drug.

The Green Party, which has been selling the kits by mail-order since December, said they were part of a more "enlightened" approach to drug-taking.

But Keith Hellawell, leader of the Government's anti-drugs strategy, said that the "extremely crude" kits suggested that it was safe to take the drug. Even a pure Ecstasy

**Kit already sold by Green Party does not give full picture on safety, reports Adam Fresco**

tablet could kill, he said, so if the test showed that a tablet was not contaminated it could still be life-threatening. "Therefore, the kit is building a false confidence. It's immoral and just a crude measure for money-making," Mr Hellawell said.

He is to ask the Government

how a Brighton-based company, called E-Z Test, obtained a licence to sell the kits. They were first sold in The Netherlands, where tablets are routinely tested in clubs. Users take a scraping of the tablet and mix it with a liquid before matching the results to a swatch of seven colours to identify the contents.

Dylan Trump, of E-Z Test, admitted that Ecstasy could contain harmful substances even if the test were negative.

"We are not saying Ecstasy is a safe drug; all drugs have a health risk. But we are providing people with more information than they had before."

"I do not know how it can be called immoral as it is a harm-reduction programme. It is all about individual choice." The equipment is sold over the Internet and by mail order.

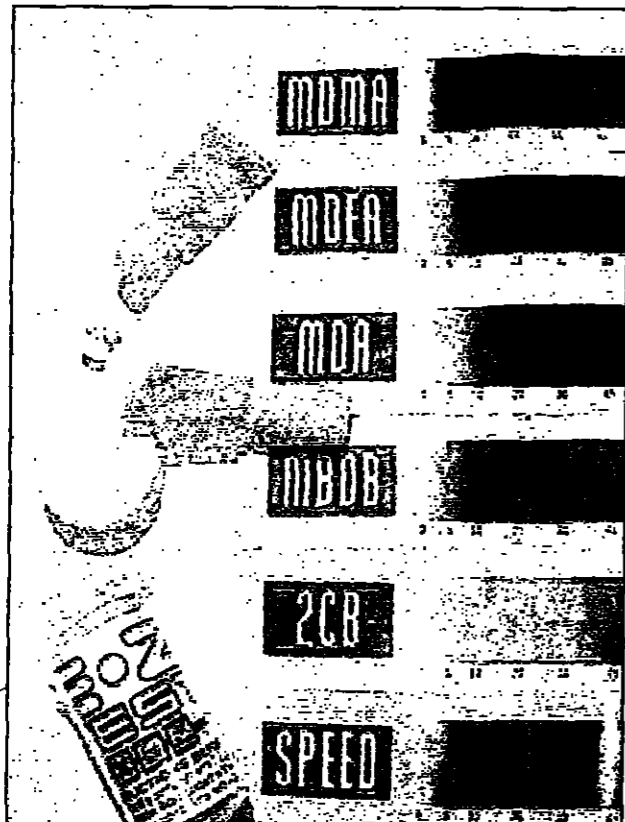
The Green Party was "outraged" that the test had been described as immoral, Shane Collins, party spokesman on drugs, said. "The 'just say no' campaign is just not working. It should be just say 'know'. We need a more enlightened view about drug-taking."

□ A student died after taking the antidepressant Prozac and LSD. Christian Hurley had been taking Prozac for several months when he and some friends decided to use the hallucinogenic drug. He started convulsing and later died.

Colin McCormick, who conducted a post-mortem examination, told an inquest in Reading: "LSD itself is not toxic. There are approximately ten cases of adverse effects in people using Prozac and LSD."

Dr Joe Pim, East Berkshire Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Mr Hurley, a psychology student at Reading University. The inquest was told that Mr Hurley had taken LSD before while on Prozac, with no ill-effect.

A 19-year-old friend of Mr Hurley has been charged with supplying LSD and cannabis.



The E-Z Test has a colour chart to check tablets



Tom Whittaker on his climb. A colleague said: "His dream has become reality"



Everest: third attempt

## One foot in the Everest records

By TIM JONES

A ONE-FOOTED Welshman yesterday entered the record books when he became the first amputee to scale Everest.

More than 19 years after losing his right foot in a car accident, a delighted Tom Whittaker reached the 29,028 ft summit after a three-day climb at the age of 49. It was his third attempt.

Angela Hawse, a member of the team, speaking from base camp, said: "His dream has become a reality. It proves that if you set your mind to it, you can accomplish anything."

Mr Whittaker, from Porthmadoc, in Carmarfon and Merioneth, lectures on outdoor activities at Prescott College, Arizona. He has been climbing mountains for 25 years. In 1989 he managed to reach 24,000 ft on Everest. Six years later, he had to retreat when his oxygen supplies ran low at 27,500ft. Before attempting the latest challenge he trained in the foothills for two months.

Married with a daughter aged six, he hopes his achievement will inspire other physically impaired people and help to change attitudes towards disability.

News of his achievement comes just before tomorrow's 45th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest, by Hillary and Tensing.

## BBC crew 'disguised as women' held in Yemen

By CAROL MIDDLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THREE male BBC journalists were being held by police in Yemen yesterday after claims that they were caught filming without authorisation and disguised as women in an area where kidnapping is rife.

The crew were arrested in the Yemeni capital Sana'a while making a film for BBC2's *Correspondent* series. All had journalists' visas and had been in Yemen ten days.

Their Yemeni guide said they had worn traditional black face and body veils to elude the police while interviewing the Bani Dhabyan tribe near Marib, 105 miles northeast of Sana'a.

It is understood they were refused permission to film in the area because the authorities feared for their safety.

Yemeni police identified the three as Robin Barnwell, a producer, Ragesh Omaar, a Jordan-based reporter, and Frank Smith, a cameraman/producer. A BBC spokesman said: "We are satisfied they are being looked after reasonably okay and we are optimistic they will be released soon."

The BBC could not confirm the reasons that led to their arrest but the spokesman said: "Whenever it is appropriate we always believe in honest dealing but sometimes it is appropriate to do things like secret filming."

Large parts of Yemen are lawless and ruled by armed tribesmen who kidnap foreigners to demand money or press for concessions from the Government. The crew spent a week with the Bani Dhabyan tribe for a programme on kidnapping, said the Yemeni guide, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Bani Dhabyan have carried out several kidnappings, including that of David Mitchell, a British teacher, his wife, Caroline, and their son, Ben, 14, near Marib, on April 16. They were released earlier this month.

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Two days in the life of PRINCE CHARLES



Rod Stewart on birds, booze and footie



In the FREE glossy Magazine

Girl, 5, says two boys raped her in cemetery

By A CORRESPONDENT

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD girl told a court yesterday that she was raped when she went out to play with two 12-year-old boys on a Sunday afternoon. The judge and barristers at Leeds Crown Court took off their wigs as the girl gave evidence via a video link. She told how she was taken to Harehills Cemetery in Leeds last September when the boys, her 12-year-old uncle with whom she lived and another 12-year-old, took it in turns to have sex with her. The girl's uncle, now 13, has admitted indecent assault. The other boy, still 12, denies rape. Nicholas Campbell, for the prosecution, told the jury that the girl kicked and screamed as the 12-year-old raped her. The boy had then threatened to burn the clothes of the girl's uncle if he did not also have sex with her. After the uncle had sex with her, the 12-year-old raped her again. In a videotape interview, the girl said she thought the boys were going to kill her. The hearing continues.



Eye spy: an artist's impression of the building that may be the shape of things to come for the Government's secret listening base in Cheltenham. Four firms want to build the new GCHQ in Gloucestershire and the latest design will be considered by the local council in July

BT faces inquiry into directory billing

By MARK HENDERSON

BRITISH Telecom is facing an Ofel investigation into a secret change to directory inquiry billing that could cost callers thousands of pounds a year. Directory Enquiries operators have been ordered to stop offering to refund callers who dial the service in error, instead giving the money back only if it is asked for. Observers believe that thousands of customers will fail to claim the refund, boosting the company's profits at the expense of users. BT made nearly £86 a second in profit during the first three months of this year. The change was not announced publicly and came to light only when an internal memo was leaked by a disgruntled operator. In it BT bosses draw attention to the huge sums that could be saved if the number of 35p domestic inquiry refunds and 80p rebates for the international service could be reduced. "Although each individual credit represents only a small amount, BT currently processes an awful lot," the memo said. "A large number of small amounts can make a big saving. Moreover, handling credits involves significant manual intervention and is an expensive operation." The telecommunications regulator Ofel said it would seek an explanation from BT. A BT spokesman said the new system was designed to make operators more efficient and increase the number of calls they could handle. Operators would not quibble with customers' requests for refunds, he said. Under old procedures, customers who rang the 192 domestic Directory Enquiries line seeking an international number would automatically be told they could have a refund if they called the 153 international service, and vice versa. Now customers can get their money back only if they specifically ask. The operator who leaked the new guidelines said BT staff were upset that customers would be hoodwinked out of money they were entitled to have back. "What will happen is that when people get their next bill they will notice an odd 35p or 80p on it which they would not have had before," the operator said. "It may not sound like much. But if you think about the number of operators and exchanges there are working round the clock it will add up to thousands a year at least. "Dialling 192 instead of 153, or the other way round, is not an uncommon mistake. I know one operator who approved £18 worth of such credits on one shift alone." The National Communications Union said: "This is just a penny-pinchers' trick which will lose the company friends." The National Consumer Council added: "This is unacceptable. They are making enough money without this. They should tell people what they are doing. It makes you wonder what else they do that people don't find out about." Some 625 million calls a year are made to Directory Enquiries at a cost to consumers of £115 million. In February, BT increased the cost of a call to the domestic service by 40 per cent from 25p to 35p, and the cost of an international inquiry rose from 60p to 80p. The company said the service lost £21 million last year. Call charges were first introduced for the services in 1991, though they were reduced in 1994. Calls remain free from public telephones.

Lawrence detective unaware of law

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE detective who led the investigation into the killing of Stephen Lawrence said yesterday that he had not realised he could arrest key suspects as soon as he had "reasonable" grounds. Detective Superintendent Brian Weeden, who led the inquiry for 18 months and who had investigated other murders, told the Lawrence inquiry that he thought he had to wait for firm evidence of guilt. He also had not known that a potential witness was named to a detective early after the murder of the black student in Eltham, southeast London, in 1993. Michael Mansfield, QC, for the Lawrence family, asked him: "Do you find that it is rather disturbing that it has taken you all this time to recognise a basic tenet of criminal law?" Mr Weeden, now retired, responded: "I think it is regrettable." Mr Weeden said suspects could have been arrested earlier but for his initial ignorance concerning a key witness. A police informant, referred to as Grant, told one of Mr Weeden's officers soon after the murder that a 17-year-old, referred to as B, saw the killing from a passing bus and could identify some of the suspects. When told this by Mr Mansfield, Mr Weeden said: "I am staggered." Mr Weeden added that the evidence of B as well as that of another witness, K, would have provided him with the evidence he wanted to arrest "within hours".

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# Discord kept to a minimum in the land of song

INSIDE Cardiff Castle, Midori Matsui listened with satisfaction to the results of weeks of painstaking tuition. "Very good," she declared.

Miss Matsui has been teaching a massed male voice choir to sing the Japanese national anthem for the arrival of the Emperor and Empress on the second day of their state visit to Britain. She arrived from Tokyo exactly 25 years ago to help to set up the first Japanese company in South Wales, and still has not gone home.

The result was pronounced a success and the Empress, who is said to have a few words of Welsh and to be learning the harp, applauded with such warmth as imperial protocol allows.

After Tuesday's protests in The Mall, the Imperial couple flew to Wales to see a more positive side of Anglo-Japanese relations. Since 1973, 54 Japanese companies have invested £1.5 billion in Wales and created 17,000 jobs. South Wales now makes half of all the Japanese colour televisions in Britain and four fifths of the microwave ovens.

However, there was still a reminder of the era the Japanese would so like to forget. About 30 veterans, some of them former Far East prison-

## People of Wales show respect for Emperor whose country bolsters economy, says Alan Hamilton

ers of war, but an equal number from the Eighth Army who were more concerned with defeating Rommel, gathered at the castle gate, turned their backs and booed as the imperial Rolls swept in.

The small gathering provided its own touching moment. Monica Yabsley, 72, from Tredegar, arrived to protest wearing on her lapel the labour camp badge of her late husband, Ray, bearing his prison number, 12813. It was spotted by another veteran, Glyn Thomas, 76, from Neath. "Good God," Mr Thomas exclaimed. "I was 12812. I remember Ray well." The couple, who had never met, exchanged hugs, a few tears and memories of a prison camp in Java to which 1,000 men were assigned and from

which only 270 survived. Mrs Yabsley disclosed that her 26-year-old grandson teaches English in Japan. "I don't know what my husband would have thought of that. He would probably have chopped the boy's legs off before he got on the plane." She laughed, but it was only just a joke.

Before he left Japan, the Emperor expressed a wish to *The Times* to meet ordinary British people. Yesterday was the closest he is likely to come during his four-day visit: a carefully chosen audience of British managers working for Japanese companies and a fair gathering of the 1,200-strong Japanese community in Wales, with the Prince of Wales and Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, as hosts.

Miss Matsui, a director of Takiron UK, the pioneering company that went to the village of Bedwas to make plastic building panels, spoke well of her 30-strong workforce. "The Welsh people are very warm-hearted and they are very diligent. They do not try to sleep on the night shift, which some workers will do even in Japan."

Ray Adams, general manager of Yajima, a company at Ebbw Vale that makes the steel chassis for Sony televisions, was born and bred in the Rhondda. "If it had not been for the Japanese, there would have been mass migration out of the Valleys by now. I know about the past but every country, and every company I have ever worked for, has had a dark side. The Japanese had a dark era, but time moves on."

When the Emperor, as Crown Prince Akihito, last visited Wales in 1976, he donned overalls and helmet to go underground at Deep Navigation Colliery in the Rhondda. That pit, like every other in Wales, has gone.

The imperial couple, with the Prince of Wales at their



Empress Michiko taking the hand of a Japanese girl at Cardiff Castle yesterday

side, watched a display of Welsh singing and dancing and the Empress was presented with a posy by two small children, one in a tall Welsh hat and the other in a tiny kimono. Other well-drilled children waved paper flags of the Welsh dragon and the rising sun.

Lord Elis-Thomas, chairman of the Welsh Language Board, engaged the Emperor in a lengthy discussion about the Welsh tongue. "They have an increasing interest in Celtic literature in Japan," he explained later. "The Japanese like working in a community-oriented climate. That's why they come to Wales."

Among young Japanese living in Cardiff, opinion was divided on the veterans' demand for an apology. Yoko Yoshinari, 18, said: "We are very sorry for what happened in that period. The Emperor has a responsibility to his country and to the world, so I believe he should apologise."

But Michiko Hamaguchi, 19, also standing in line to see her Emperor for the first time, said: "If he apologises, I am not sure that people will forgive anyway. It has been more than 50 years and now people are sharing the products made by the Japanese. We have to move on."

With the Welsh Secretary as

their host, the imperial couple lunched in the castle on Teifi smoked salmon, Brecon venison, Welsh barra brigh (fruit bread) mousse and Welsh rhubarb ice cream. It was the second time in two days that the couple had been fed rhubarb.

They left with the gifts of a carved limewood Welsh dragon and a loving spoon symbolically carved with lotuses and daffodils. At the Empress's specific request, the male voice choir sang them out with *We'll Keep A Welcome in the Hillsides*. They did not need Miss Matsui's tuition for that, although, of course, she knows the words.

# Film depicts Japan as the victim of war

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

A FILM portraying Japan as a victim in the Second World War has caused outrage in countries that lost millions of people during the Japanese occupation.

*Pride, the Painful Moment* depicts General Hideki Tojo, the Japanese Prime Minister tried and executed in 1948 by the Allies for war crimes, as a heroic samurai and martyr. It portrays Japan's invasion of Asian countries as a noble crusade to liberate them from European control.

Moreover, it credits Japan with a magnified role in freeing India from the yoke of British colonialism, prompting the Indian Government to disassociate itself from the film.

The film, from one of Japan's major studios, was released at the weekend, and sparked outrage from neighbouring countries. "Hideki Tojo was the chief criminal of that war of aggression," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "We feel shocked and indignant that some people in Japan produced such a movie to whitewash aggression and sing the praises of Hideki Tojo."

North Korea also condemned the film as a "shameless" attempt to embellish Japanese militarism.

In Japan the film has generated little criticism, apart from a protest by the trade union of the film company, Toei, which produced it. It has been strongly endorsed by prominent rightwingers in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, including a number of former Cabinet ministers.

The film, sponsored by a wealthy Japanese businessman, is part of a growing nationalist movement to reinterpret Japan's past and remove the stigma of aggressor. Powerful conservative lobbies, angry at official statements of remorse made

by Japanese leaders to China, Korea and Britain, are campaigning for an end to apologies about the war.

The film focuses on the International Military Tribunal for the Far East that tried 28 Japanese defendants, including Tojo, for war crimes. One of the most contentious episodes seeks to undermine claims that the Japanese Army went on an infamous rampage of rape and killing in Nanking in 1937. China says as many as 300,000 civilians were killed in the massacre, among the tens of millions who died in Japan's 1931-45 occupation.

But in scenes of the trial the film sets out to discredit the evidence of an eyewitness, insinuating that hardly any civilians died and that Japan was the victim of malicious lies. This echoes the line taken by some conservative Japanese politicians and scholars, who believe that the massacre was fabricated.

The film-makers say that their aim is to set the record straight and demonstrate that Japan was unfairly cast as the villain in the war. "Americans have forced upon us a one-sided view of history," Hideaki Kase, a historian who conceived and helped to produce the film, said.



Tojo: executed in 1948 for war crimes



Two girls in national dress about to meet the Emperor

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# Heads vote to defy ministers on reading goals

### John O'Leary reports from the NAHT conference on teachers' fears that literacy targets may be unrealistic

HEAD teachers were told yesterday to set their own goals for improved reading levels if they believed imposed targets were unrealistic.

The Government wants to ensure that 80 per cent of 11-year-olds reach their expected level of literacy by 2002, compared with the current 63 per cent. Every primary is being set a target by its local authority this term.

But delegates to the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers in Eastbourne yesterday voted unanimously to reject the "cascading" of targets from ministers to schools.



Brookes: "figures being plucked from the air"

Ministers have given authorities the power to take control of schools which are falling behind their required levels of improvement. However, some head teachers and governors have already warned education authorities that they will ignore targets that fail to reflect the capabilities of individual year groups.

Michael Brookes, a member of the NAHT's executive and head teacher of Sherwood Junior School, in Warsop,

Nottinghamshire, told the conference that figures were being "plucked from the air" to fulfil the Government's commitment, on which David Blunkett has staked his reputation.

Mr Brookes added: "We are advising our members that if targets are unrealistic, they shouldn't be bullied into accepting them, but just say no."

Brian McNutt, the head of Eastway Primary School, in

the Wirral, accused the Government of adopting a "big stick" approach.

"To achieve these standards, will schools be turned into exam factories, just simply machines to get us through the tests?" he asked.

The first targets will apply to the English results of 11-year-olds in 2000. Numeracy targets for the age group are expected to be set next year, and the Department for Education and Employment has told the teaching unions to expect a similar regime in secondary schools, based on GCSE results.

David Hart, the NAHT's general secretary, said secondary head teachers did not believe that local authorities had the necessary expertise to set accurate targets for their schools. There would be an "explosion of anger" if figures were imposed, he said.

Mr Hart said: "You cannot blame heads when they are trying to set targets for 2000 and beyond for wanting to be extremely cautious. If they don't meet them, they are going to be caned by govern-



Head teachers, backed by David Hart, below, voted to set their own targets

ment, by Ofsted, and the Government.

However, Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, said the Government's target was reasonable and realistic. "Surely it is not unreasonable to expect that in four years' time, four out of five 11-year-olds will have reached the level of literacy expected of them?"

Mr Byers said the Government had invested £57.5 mil-

lion in its literacy strategy. Ministers were confident that the majority of head teachers would support the initiative. Primary schools which make insufficient progress towards their targets by 2000 risk extra inspections by Ofsted, and warning letters from their local authorities. If they still do not improve, their authority will be able to appoint new governors and finally take back control of the school.

Most authorities have begun the process of setting targets for 11-year-olds, and some have volunteered to do the same for seven-year-olds.

Susan Taylor, head teacher of the Ridgeway Infants School, in Derby, said: "We are being asked to set targets for children who have been barely born. We will set our own targets, based on children's development, not national tests."



## Call for law to prevent governors interfering

By JOHN O'LEARY

HEAD teachers demanded new legislation yesterday to protect them from interfering governors.

Confusion over the responsibilities and duties of school governors was resulting in hundreds of disputes each year, the conference was told. Many governors had no training but set themselves up in a managerial role.

Rowie Shaw, the association's director of professional services, told delegates that most governors were "absolutely fantastic" and enjoyed a good relationship with head teachers. But she added: "We get the occasional governor from hell who turns up at school unannounced and wanders into classrooms or dominates meetings with their own children's problems or some new idea he has seen on TV."

Tony Riley, the Birmingham branch secretary, said: "We had one governor who walked round school with a bunch of keys, another who demanded to countersign every order and one who sat in the car park and timed staff arriving and departing."

David Hart, the general secretary, said he hoped the School Standards Bill would clarify responsibilities. Governors should restrict themselves to making policy and setting strategy, leaving head teachers to manage, he said.

## Nurses thanked for blood money

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE brother of the murdered Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford last night thanked the two British women convicted in connection with her murder for releasing the £750,000 "blood money" due to him.

Frank Gilford said that he was looking forward to getting back to a normal life. "There've been no winners in all this," he said yesterday from his home in Jamestown, South Australia.

"We've all suffered - my family and the families of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan," he added. "I would like to thank them for releasing the money and I hope that they and their families and we can get on with our lives and leave all this behind us."

The money, which Mr Gilford agreed to accept in exchange for waiving the death penalty on Parry, amounts to Aus\$1.7 million and will be presented at a ceremony in Adelaide. Australian politicians who have

supported Mr Gilford, including the Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, are planning to attend the presentation.

Mr Gilford's solicitor, John Keen, last night said that all the necessary documentation had been received from Saudi Arabia and Britain. But it could still be a few days before the sum is given to Mr Gilford.

Mr Gilford has promised to donate Aus\$1 million to the Women and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, for a special day surgery unit in honour of his sister. Most of the remainder will go towards his legal fees. Mr Gilford has said that he will keep Aus\$50,000 to cover his expenses.

Earlier this week Parry's Saudi lawyer, Salah al-Hejjalan, advised her and McLauchlan to withhold the money and sue Mr Gilford for causing her mental anguish. But after pressure from Mr Downer, the two nurses relented.

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# Call for law to prevent governors interfering

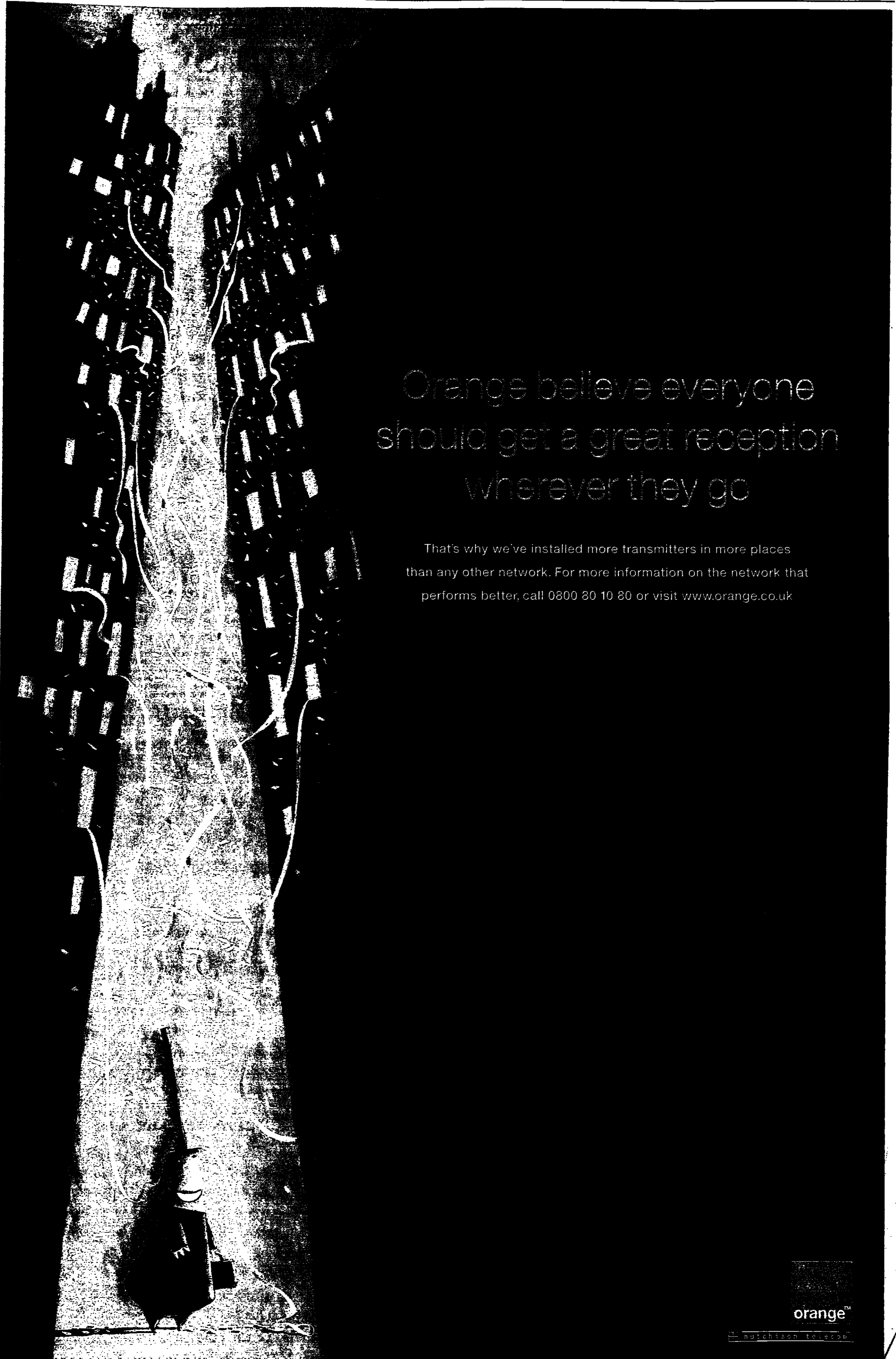
IN JOHN O'LEARY  
The government's demand that the House of Lords be given the right to veto legislation is a move to prevent the House of Lords from interfering with the government's agenda. The House of Lords is a body of 100 members, 70 of whom are appointed by the government. The House of Lords has the power to delay legislation, but it cannot veto it. The government's demand that the House of Lords be given the right to veto legislation is a move to prevent the House of Lords from interfering with the government's agenda. The House of Lords is a body of 100 members, 70 of whom are appointed by the government. The House of Lords has the power to delay legislation, but it cannot veto it.

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# Rural charter sends out farm SOS

## Lawyers hunt for BSE clues in files of Whitehall

FARMERS and agricultural businesses yesterday appealed to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor for urgent action to save the rural economy from collapse.

They signed a Rural Charter urging the Government to "acknowledge the severity of the crisis affecting rural Britain and act to remedy it". Top of their demands were lower interest rates and a cut in the value of the pound to help their overseas trade.

There was some good news, however, from the European Commission which announced the first relaxation of the EU ban on beef exports imposed more than two years ago because of "mad cow"

**Michael Hornsby finds beef export breakthrough overshadowed by fears of crisis**

disease. The Commission said that beef exports could resume from Northern Ireland next Monday.

Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, said at the launch of the Rural Charter that farm incomes had fallen almost 50 per cent in 1997 and that agricultural investment was expected to fall 37 per cent this year. "Uncertainty about the future means that farmers are very reluctant to invest even if they have the money to do so," he said. "I will be seeking an urgent meeting with the Chancellor."

George Lyon, president of the

Scottish branch of the union, said that 150,000 jobs were at stake in Scotland. "We have an extremely depressed situation with bankruptcies and repossession. Investment is zero. The strength of sterling lies at the heart of it."

Copies of the charter, signed by 25 farming and agricultural groups, were sent to the Deputy Prime Minister, the President of the Board of Trade, the Scottish Secretary, the Welsh Secretary, and the Governor of the Bank of England. Signatories included slaughterhouse representatives, livestock hauliers, agro-

chemical suppliers and the veterinary profession.

Jake Vowles, director-general of the Agriculture Engineers Association, representing farm machinery suppliers, said that farmers' difficulties were having a severe knock-on effect. "So far this year we have seen a 46 per cent drop in tractor sales in Britain over the same period of 1997. We are looking at sales of fewer than 10,000 for the whole of this year," he said.

Richard Cracknell, president of the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, said the number of

cattle being slaughtered for human consumption was 25 to 30 per cent down because of BSE restrictions and the export ban. "The strong pound means that we are also losing markets for things that we can export, such as lamb and pork."

James Paice, Conservative agriculture spokesman, said the Government had "treated farming and rural Britain with contempt".

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, accepted that farmers were having a hard time but said that the health of the rural economy no longer depended on farming

alone. "Overall, farm incomes have been in decline for almost two decades, apart from a small and temporary arrest in the early 1990s," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today*. "But I do not accept that everyone in the countryside is getting very much poorer. Rural unemployment fell in the last 12 months by 4 per cent."

Dr Cunningham described the resumption of beef exports from Northern Ireland as "excellent news". The ban has been lifted because 97 per cent of beef herds in the Province have never had a case of BSE and there is a computerised cattle monitoring system.

Leading article, page 23

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

A WHITEHALL hunt is under way for the "smoking gun" that might implicate officials or former ministers over the BSE crisis. A team of legal troubleshooters has been hired to search for memorandums, correspondence and other documents that could provide the key to the Conservative Government's handling of the issue.

While the Scott inquiry into arms for Iraq was virtually stalled for a year as civil servants trailed their own documents, the BSE inquiry, headed by Lord Justice Phillips, has insisted on an independent search of files. About 30 lawyers have been sent to government departments to conduct the trawl, with most information coming from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Health. Material has also been retrieved in the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland offices.

So far the team has scoured 1,000 files containing about 150,000 sheets of paper to work out the chronology and the role of various officials, scientists, veterinary surgeons and ministers. A total of 60,000 documents has been collated as "of interest."

The findings will govern the line of questioning over the next two months when officials will be called to give evidence for the first time. About 300 administrators and 30 scientists have been asked for written evidence, but only about 50 are likely to be questioned in public.

Richard Packer, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, has made clear to his staff that they should speak freely to the inquiry. He is among senior civil servants who are to appear before the inquiry in September. About 150 former ministers are scheduled for November and December.

Last night, a senior Whitehall source made clear that Lord Justice Phillips did not wish to be "judgmental" in his inquiry, and that all actions were governed in the context of the knowledge of BSE at the time.

## Falling prices force closure of livestock market after 70 years

**Peter Foster listens to farmers at Banbury blaming supermarkets for driving auctioneers out of business**

FARMERS have been buying and selling livestock at Banbury market every Wednesday and Thursday for more than 70 years. Yesterday it was announced that the market will close next week with the loss of 100 jobs.

The owners, Midland Marts Group, say they were left with no choice after the BSE crisis sent beef prices to the floor and farmers turned more and more to arable production.

Jim Watson, the chairman, said it was the hardest decision of his life. He started work at Banbury as a trainee

auctioneer more than 40 years ago. However, he had no other option: the numbers were not adding up. "We will be closing next Thursday," he said. "Stock turnover has been decimated by the drift into arable farming and repercussions of BSE and we do not see any prospect of prices recovering significantly in the short term."

Several hundred farmers were bemused by another setback in what has become a decade of hard knocks. One muttered that it was like going to a funeral. The wake was in full progress in the

Stockyard Inn by lunchtime over pints of beer and hot beef rolls described as "mooing rare".

The fall in beef prices was clear to see yesterday as the auctioneers used all their tricks to get farmers to part with their money. Time and again Jan Smethurst promised that "there's value left in this one, gentlemen". Mostly they did not agree.

For Alan Cockburn, who farms 500 acres near Kenilworth in Warwickshire, yesterday was a double blow. He went to Banbury to sell Romeo, his one-ton Simmental bull after deciding he could no longer afford to keep his beef herd.

With his daughter Philippa, 12, Mr Cockburn made regular visits to the holding pens to keep Romeo calm before the sale. Described by the auctioneer as a "guaranteed stock getter", Romeo fetched 450 guineas. It had cost £1,200 two years ago.

The farmer confessed he was sad to see the beast go. "I shall probably go home and say 'where art thou?' for the rest of the day. I didn't have many cattle even before BSE but I kept them because they're such lovely animals.

But with prices as they are now, I can't afford to keep them even as a hobby. I'll take up golf, it's cheaper."

Not everyone was selling. Denise Badger and her husband, John, picked up six Friesian steers at £230 a head for their 100-acre grassland farm on the other side of Stratford-upon-Avon. Mrs

Badger said the news of Banbury's closure, which she heard on BBC Radio's *Farming Today*, would leave a large hole in many farmers' lives. "My father-in-law has been coming here since before the war," she said. "Farming can be a lonely, isolated life and market day is a chance for everyone to catch up, find out what's going on and have a little moral support."

Back in the Stockyard Inn, the farmers were blaming the big supermarkets for holding down prices and driving auctioneers out of business. "They want total control," one of them said. "When all the livestock markets are gone, supermarkets will be able to

dictate any price they like."

As the final lots were sold, an air of despondency settled over the bar. Banbury's closure came as a particular shock as it is one of the largest livestock markets in Europe. "In market terms it's like the end of Manchester United," one said. "If Banbury can't survive, then who can?"



Business was brisk at Banbury cattle market 50 years ago, with plenty of interest around the sale ring



Closure was the hardest decision of Jim Watson's life

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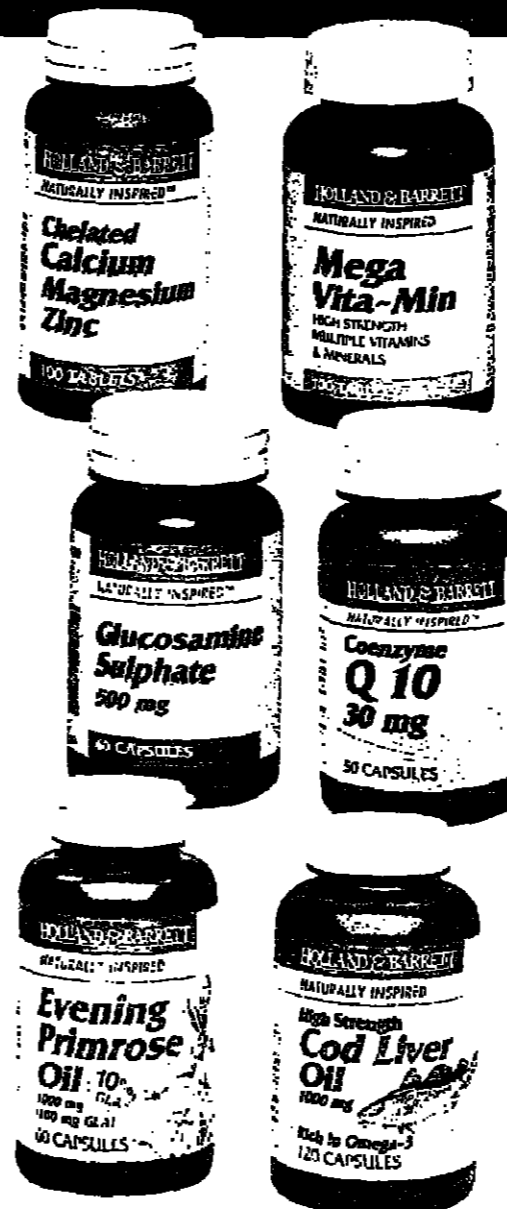
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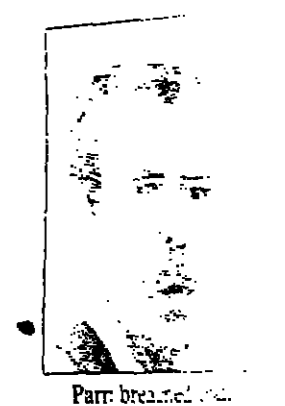
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Music lose £ in 'th on Int Carol Midgley

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Part: breached



# Musicians lose £40m in 'theft' on Internet

### Carol Midgley hears appeals for enforcement of the copyright law

CLONING music tracks from the Internet is costing writers and publishers an estimated £40 million a year and posing a major threat to the future of the British music industry, it was claimed yesterday.

British Music Rights, an organisation set up to protect musicians, composers and publishers, called for a government task force to enforce copyright law and make Internet suppliers and telecoms companies responsible for infringements on their equipment. It also demanded that a compulsory hour of music tuition per week be introduced in all schools to nurture new talent.

The launch of BMR's manifesto was attended by Sir George Martin, the producer who signed the Beatles to EMI in 1962, Melvyn Bragg, Janet Street-Porter and leading industry figures.

BMR said the unauthorised manufacture of compact discs was already at an unprecedented level and could eventually "overwhelm" the legitimate music business. Thanks to digital technology, it is possible to download albums from MP3 files on the Internet and transfer them to a recordable CD with the same quality of sound. The procedure costs little more than the price of a local telephone call. Fans often place albums on Websites for distribution to other fans. MP3 files are Internet files with an extremely high quality: compression standard that fit into about a tenth of the usual space.

A pirate version of an album by the pop group Garbage was played at yesterday's launch to illustrate the high quality of the "stolen" CDs. "A digital copy is the same thing as the original," a spokesman said. "It is a clone rather than a copy as there is no degradation in the transfer."

Andy Heath, a music publisher, said the MP3 sites should be closed down to prevent further "thefts".

The BMR said it had been estimated that about 26,000 Internet sites used music writers' work illegally, for which the composers and performers were not being paid.

Ashley Slater, of the band Freakpower, told the launch at the Festival Hall in London that his only real income came from royalties paid each time one of his tracks was played on radio. Slater, who had a number one hit with *Tune In Turn On Cop*, said: "It's virtually impossible to earn money through touring. If my copyright isn't protected I go out, and I'm just one of tens of thousands of musicians who rely on that. When that happens another little twinkly light in the Cool Britannia sky goes out."

William Booth, of Sony Music, said: "My company invests millions of pounds each year in new writing talent and new composers and to recover that money we need to be paid. If we don't get paid because it goes on the Internet we can't continue to make that investment in new talent and we can't continue to pay people to collect money for those new composers."

Gavin Robertson, of the Music Alliance, said enthusiasts could put music on the Internet with the use of a simple-to-use computer program costing £15. With increasingly sophisticated systems, browsers at the other end could download near-CD quality versions of songs which could be stored on recordable discs.

Sir George Martin spoke out against the "stupid move" of making music only an optional part of the school curriculum. "Music is so important for children," he said. "It focuses the mind, makes them more disciplined and better at maths and computing." He was particularly concerned about the future of classical music because orchestras were under-subsidised. "Can you imagine Nigel Kennedy not being given a violin to play? If he had not been we would not have seen a great violinist."

"In the bad old days of Thatcher it wasn't considered very important but now we have high hopes of this Government valuing music more. Music earns more for this country than the steel industry."



Sir George Martin, Janet Street-Porter and Melvyn Bragg at the Festival Hall for the launch of the British Music Rights manifesto

# Street lamps dim hopes of fast Net access

By Nick Nuttall  
TECHNOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

A PIONEERING scheme to deliver faster Internet access using the power supply that serves street lamps has hit a snag. Communications experts have found that the lamp-posts act as radio masts, filling the airwaves with data from the World Wide Web.

The electricity company Norweb hit on the idea after realising that street lights shared the same power supply as cables carrying domestic computer links. The system, which transfers data along electricity cables and between substations, is 20 times faster than modems used by most "surfers" of the Net. Using the electricity mains also frees local telephone lines.

Experts fear, however, that the technology could cause serious problems for other users of the high-frequency radio spectrum, including the BBC World Service, the Civil Aviation Authority and GCHQ.

Norweb failed to realise that street lights are ideal telecommunications masts, capable of broadcasting the Internet data to the surrounding area at between 2 and 10 megahertz. Apart from swamping the radio spectrum, the system could allow eavesdropping.

Nick Long, an engineer, told *New Scientist*: "If you set out to design radio aerials to fit with this system, they would look like street lamps. They are just the right vertical length of conductor."

The Department of Trade and Industry's radio communications agency has been called in to mediate between air-wave users and Norweb. A GCHQ spokeswoman told the magazine: "We are trying to gauge the level of risk."

John Seddon, operations director at Norweb, said: "The technology that will be deployed in volume will be at low power levels in comparison to the general radio noise already out there."

# Sacked council official 'got trapped in porn Website'

By Paul Wilkinson



Parr: breached code

A SENIOR council official sacked for viewing pornography on the Internet at work claimed he had found the Website by mistake and did not know how to escape from it.

Ian Parr, a senior housing accounts officer, told an industrial tribunal that he believed his offences were not serious enough to warrant dismissal by Derwentside District Council. Mr Parr, 37, who had been employed by the council, in north-west Durham, for 17 years, had an exemplary disciplinary record. He was one of three officers alleged by the council to have viewed pornography on their office computers.

Mr Parr, from Consett, Co Durham, told the tribunal in Newcastle upon Tyne that he had come across a pornographic site, *Smutlands*, when it was cross-referenced from a sports site he was visiting. He said: "I was in a sport site which was linked to a sexually explicit site. I tried to find a link back to sport but I became trapped in the site and had to switch the PC off. This startled me and I gave up surfing the Net."

The tribunal was told that a computer activity monitoring system used by the council recorded five hours of access by Mr Parr during a three-day period between December 16 and 18 last year. One and a half hours had been spent accessing sexually explicit sites.

Mr Parr explained that he could not believe the ease with which pornography could be viewed and that he went on to access more sites because as a father he was concerned about how easy it would be for children to view pornography on the Internet. He said: "I admit looking at porn. I was working on how I could get into the system so I could tell other people of the dangers to children."

Paul Cape, for the council, showed the tribunal a list of the sites Mr Parr had accessed from his PC. They showed he had visited at least five sites that Mr Cape said were of a nature that would not be found on page three of a popular newspaper. Mr Parr was suspended on full pay last December after he admitted viewing pornography and was dismissed in January.

Mike Clarke, the council's director of community services, told the hearing: "Mr Parr was a senior officer with a significant amount of responsibility who had been employed with the council for a long time. I came to the conclusion the evidence before me was that he had breached the officers' code of conduct by misusing equipment."

The tribunal reserved judgment. A tribunal involving the second officer, Adrian Flanagan, a tax and debt recovery manager who was dismissed for similar offences, is expected to take place later this year. The third officer, Alan Gerono, the head of housing management, resigned.

Lawyers hunt for BSE clues in files of Whitehall

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# Shake-up could lead to US-style district attorneys

LOCAL American-style district attorneys may take control of crime cases in a shake-up of the Crown Prosecution Service. A long-awaited review is expected to recommend next week that the present system is unwieldy and works against securing convictions.

The inch-thick report by Sir Iain Glidewell is now with ministers. It urges a fresh start for the ten-year-old service, devolving the centralised organisation to bring the prosecution system closer to the local communities it serves.

England and Wales would have 42 regional Chief Crown Prosecutors who will be more accountable and more like the American district attorneys. The report wants prosecutors to work more closely with police so that less time and money are wasted. At present there are 13 regions working with 43 police force areas and 24 criminal justice liaison committees.

The report also proposes splitting the functions of the present Director of Public Prosecutions, Dame Barbara Mills, who said last week that she would retire a few months early so that a successor could oversee the shake-up. A chief executive will take over the

**Review says CPS work should be broken up to give more regional control, reports Frances Gibb**

administration and running of the service, leaving the DPP to concentrate on the core work of prosecution decisions and policy.

Negotiations over the report, likely to be published on Monday, have been extremely delicate. Dame Barbara made the decision to go after a final version was agreed which included her robust defence of her tenure and counter-arguments.

It is understood that the report does not contain personal criticism of Dame Barbara. Nonetheless, it is critical of how, during her time, the service has become excessively bureaucratic and failed to meet aspirations of its own staff and the public.

The report has been written by Sir Iain, a former Court of

Appeal judge, and Sir Geoffrey Dear, former Chief Constable of West Midlands. It is a strong vindication of a MORI poll last autumn among two-thirds of the service's lawyers in the First Division Association, a civil service union.

It will paint a picture of a service that has lost its way and is pervaded with low morale, intimidation and bureaucracy. Career prospects are limited and lawyers are afraid to speak out for fear of damaging their prospects.

The report is expected to confirm poll findings that CPS lawyers are strongly committed to their work but demoralised by a top-heavy management culture, excessive workloads and excessive administrative tasks. The ratings were the worst of any MORI poll among 400 public and private sector organisations over 20 years.

The report is thought unlikely to resolve the debate over falling convictions. Ministers set up the review against a background of concern over an apparent fall in conviction rates.

The CPS has always attributed this fall to fewer cases being brought forward by police.



This is the sports car that Jason Pladdys, 27, and his girlfriend, Claire Hilton, 17, a health and social care student, was able to walk away from the crash. The young couple, both from Gosport, Hampshire, were returning from a trip to Thorpe Park in Surrey when the accident happened as



## Couple escape from crushed sports car

they were sitting in traffic at a roundabout at Fareham, Hampshire. Dr Tom Moore, who attended the scene, said they were "exceedingly lucky" to get out alive. "Their car was squashed to about half its normal size. I don't believe in miracles but I told Jason if he had a spare £50 to stick it on the

lottery. He was in remarkably good spirits and was awake and conscious all the way through the rescue." PC Keith Annals said: "I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw the state of the car. Somehow Jason had got twisted round in the car. He looked like a contortionist. I couldn't believe

what a good state he was in when he was freed." It took an hour to cut free Mr Pladdys (see main picture), who was trapped with his legs against his chest.

Miss Hilton's mother, Marchelle Boyland, 35, said: "Claire cannot remember anything about the accident because she was asleep at the time but she realises how lucky she is." Mr Pladdys's father, Brian, said: "I've seen the car and it's incredible. It's been crushed to the size of a Mini. I'm just amazed that she survived." John Collins, 39, the tipper driver, and Philip Jones, 42, the lorry driver, were both treated for minor injuries.

# Science clock for Abor...

...the time taken for a woman to become pregnant is being measured in a new study. Scientists at the University of Cambridge have found that the time taken for a woman to become pregnant is being measured in a new study. Scientists at the University of Cambridge have found that the time taken for a woman to become pregnant is being measured in a new study.

# Israelis say war sync...

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A British soldier in protective gas mask.

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# Scientists turn clock forward on Aboriginal life

CLAIMS that the Aborigines were in Australia more than 100,000 years ago were based on faulty dating of the sediments where artefacts were found, according to scientists. They found that Aboriginal tools and nearby rock carvings at Jimmim in the Northern Territory are comparatively recent. Dr Richard Roberts of La Trobe University in Melbourne said: "It's definitely not a very ancient occupation site. It's no more than 10,000 years old."

"Probably human occupation at that site started 6,000 or 7,000 years ago."

The original claims, which dated the settlement at 116,000 to 176,000 years old, and the rock art at 50,000 to 70,000 years, caused a sensation when they were made two years ago because they threw into doubt theories about how the world was peopled.

The best-established, the "out-of-Africa" hypothesis, holds that modern man evolved in Africa about 100,000 years ago and then spread across the world. If so, Australia would not have been populated before 60,000 years ago. The original dates also

**Claims that Australia has been occupied for 100,000 years are wrong, says Nigel Hawkes**

implied that the Aborigines were the first artists, pre-dating the cave painters of Europe by thousands of years. But the claims, published in *Antiquity*, were always treated with scepticism by other archaeologists.

The error appears to have arisen from samples of sand used in thermoluminescence dating, a technique that can measure when a grain of sand was buried. The method depends on the grains having been exposed to sunlight before burial to "set the clock" and in this case some of the grains appear to have been insufficiently exposed.

Dr Roberts and colleagues used a slightly different technique and combined it with radioactive carbon dating of charcoal fragments from the site.

Both methods produce consistent dates and show that the site is no older than 22,000 years, and may be younger than 10,000 years.

Dr David Price of Wollongong University, who made the original measurements, declined to comment until he had seen the new data, published in *Nature*. But he said that he had no reason yet to believe that his findings were not valid.

Dr Richard Fullagar, an archaeologist with the Australian Museum, who led the Jimmim dig, was one of the authors of the original study and is also a co-author of the new paper with Dr Roberts.

He said that Dr Roberts' dates "do provide some agreement with some of the carbon dating that we think is more accurate".



Aborigines have been in Australia for only 10,000 years, rather than 100,000 years as had been claimed

## 'Sunquakes' put Richter scale in the shade

THE Sun is shaken by huge "sunquakes" that dwarf anything experienced on Earth, scientists have found. One quake, triggered by a solar flare, ripped across the surface of the Sun at up to 250,000 mph, generating 40,000 times the power of the San Francisco earthquake.

The event was detected in July 1996 by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, a satellite that observes the behaviour of the Sun. The flare, effectively a huge explosion that threw a jet of material out of the Sun, produced ripples in the surface like those caused by a stone thrown into a pond.

Alexander Kosovichev, of Stanford University, and Valentina Zharkova, of Glasgow University, report in *Nature* that the ripples were up to two miles high and travelled 120 million miles before they subsided after an hour.

They accelerated from an initial 22,000 mph to 250,000 mph, generating enough energy to power the US for 20 years.

## Israelis say stress was part of Gulf War syndrome

SOLDIERS who served in the Gulf War may be suffering from a combination of stress and the drugs they were given to protect against nerve gas attacks.

This new explanation of "Gulf War syndrome" comes from Israeli scientists who have studied the long-term effects of stress on the body. They found that acute stress can cause long-term changes in brain chemistry, of the same sort that might have been caused by anti-nerve gas agents.

The implication is that the two effects, working together, might be responsible for the irritability, depression and impaired mental performance complained of by some Gulf War veterans. A team led by Dr Hermona Soreq of the Hebrew University in Jerusa-

lem studied the effects of acute stress on mice. They forced the mice to swim for four minutes in a bath of water and measured the results.

They found that the initial effect was to increase the level of the brain-signalling chemical acetylcholine. Exactly the same effect is achieved by drugs called acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, which were part of the drug cocktail given to some Gulf War soldiers.

But the long-term effects, the team reports in *Nature*, are exactly the opposite. The body reacts to increased levels of acetylcholine by making changes that lower those levels, by producing more of the enzyme, acetylcholinesterase, which breaks it down.

It is as if the body is adjusting the thermostat to cope with a permanently high level of stress. When that stress does not arise, the result is depression and the other features of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Although the team was working with mice, not humans, it is striking that both stress and acetylcholinesterase inhibitors had the same long-term effects. The enzyme levels in the mice brains were still elevated 80 hours after the stressful swim.

In humans, the effects appear to last months or even years, a difference requiring some explanation. Dr Robert Sapolsky of Stanford University says in a commentary in the same issue of *Nature*.



A British soldier in protective gas mask

## TV watchdog finds placenta meal tasteless

A TELEVISION food show that showed a human placenta being cooked and eaten at a dinner party has been condemned by a broadcasting watchdog.

Channel 4's *TV Dinners* showed Rosie Clear cooking the afterbirth of her recent child with garlic and butter in the form of a pâté and serving it to her boyfriend and other guests. Nine viewers protested to the Broadcasting Standards Commission that the scene was distasteful and claiming that it was cannibalism.

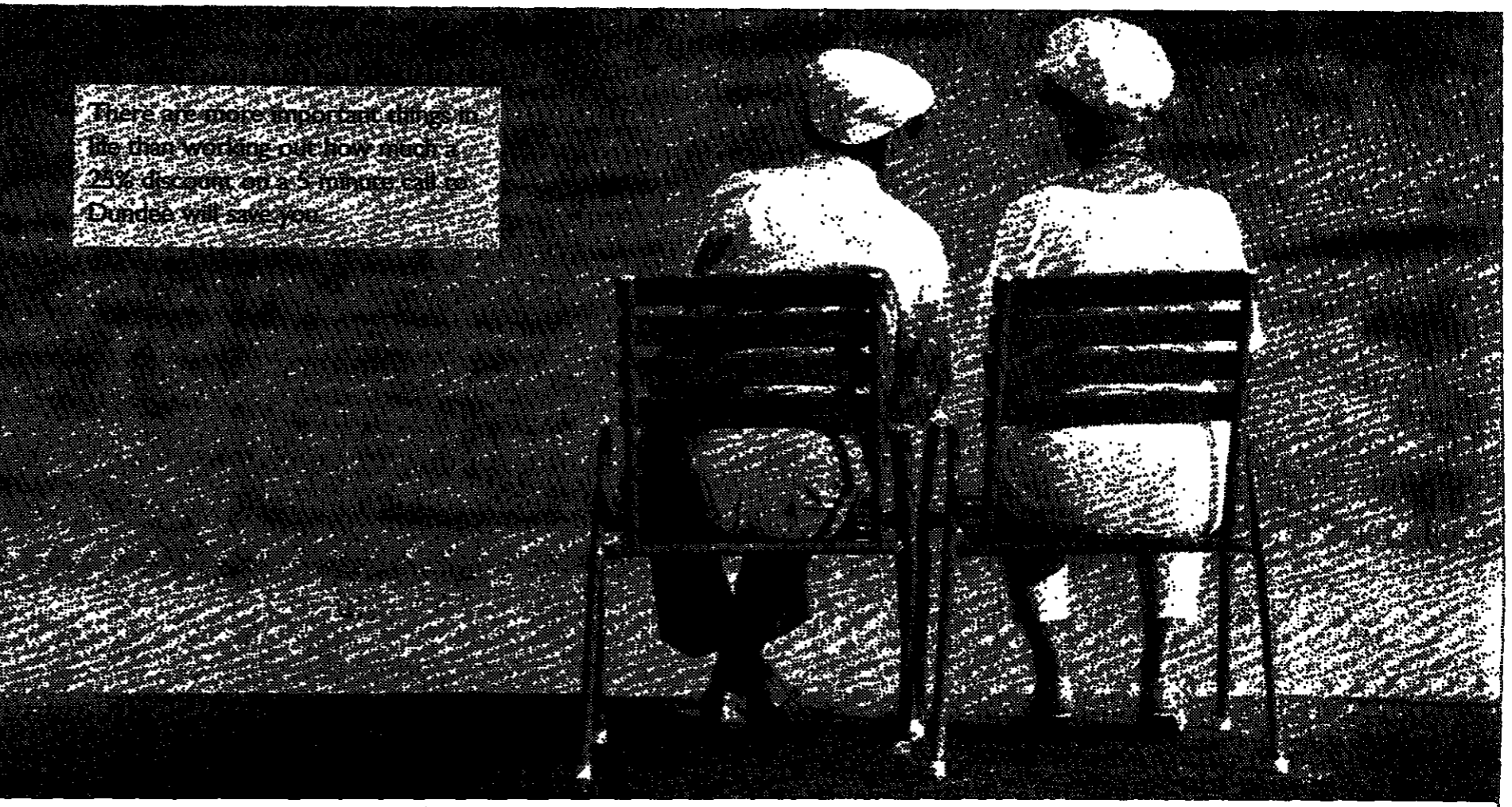
Channel 4 argued that it was not intended to be a standard cookery programme and that there had been a warning prior to transmission. It said the practice of eating placenta was not illegal, had no obvious health risks and could be traced back centuries. "The programme-makers deliberately included chefs who were trying something

unusual or different," a spokesman said.

But the commission upheld the complaints and said that Channel 4 had breached the convention of a cookery programme "in a way which would have been disagreeable to many".

It also upheld complaints about bad language used in the BBC comedy show *The Vicar of Dibley*, starring Dawn French. Seven people complained about swearing in the pre-watershed programme. The BBC admitted some scenes were more adult than family but believed they were earthy rather than offensive. The commission, however, ruled that it had exceeded acceptable boundaries for a family sitcom.

The early evening Channel 4 show *Gamesmaster* was also criticised for including scenes from the computer game *Mortal Combat IV*, which included graphic violence.



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# Tories rule ex-MPs out of order for Euro poll

FORMER Conservative MPs trying to revive their political careers by winning a seat in the European Parliament are struggling to be selected as candidates for next year's elections.

As thousands of party members gather this weekend at three mass meetings to choose the first Tory contenders, *The Times* has discovered that only 30 out of 126 Tories MPs beaten last year have made it onto the 220-strong list of potential candidates approved by Conservative Central Office.

Senior Tories feared that a flood of so-called "re-tread" MPs from the last Parliament would cost the party votes if they stood for the June 1999 poll. Many former MPs have been persuaded not to stand and some of those who tried — including Winston Churchill, Tony Marlow and Tim Devlin — have not been accepted onto the approved list.

Many of the 30 on the list have not moved any further through the selection process after their CVs were rejected by committees of local party chairmen. They include Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, Nicholas Budgen, the veteran Eurosceptic, Dame Angela Rumbold, a former Tory vice-chairman, and Sir Roger Moate.

So far only three former MPs — Nirj Deva, Robert Spink, and Timothy Kirkhope — have succeeded in moving onto the final shortlists of the first three Euro regions, which

## Conservative 're-treads' are sidelined over fears they will be an electoral liability, reports James Landale

are being selected this Saturday. The Tories have set up a complicated selection process for the new system of proportional representation, which will be used to elect MEPs for the first time. In each of the 11 regions, a committee of senior elected officials sifts through the CVs of potential candidates to produce a shortlist of about 20 people.

A larger group of between 50 to 70 chairmen of the Westminster and former Euroconstituencies interview the 20 contenders. They then vote to reduce the shortlist to

the number of candidates required, plus a few reserves. Those on the final shortlist speak and answer questions before the party faithful, who vote to put the candidates in order of preference. This is the crucial stage, because those at the top of the list are more likely to be elected.

This Saturday thousands of Tories will converge on the Docklands Arena in London, the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham and the International Conference Centre in Harrogate to choose candidates for the South East, the West Midlands, and York-

shire and The Humber. The other eight regions will select over the next two months.

Out of the 12 candidates on the final list for the South East, six are sitting MEPs: Tom Spencer, James Provan, Roy Ferry, James Elles, John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly. The only former MP on the list is Mr Deva, the former member for Brentwood and Isleworth.

Although Baron Bethel, the 59-year-old former MEP, has yet to be selected, his 32-year-old wife, Bryony, is on the final shortlist in the South East. The only ex-MP on the West Midlands shortlist is Mr Spink, who lost his Castle Point seat last year. Both Mr Lamont and Mr Budgen failed to get on the list.

In Yorkshire and The Humber, the only ex-MP on the eight-strong shortlist is Mr Kirkhope, a former minister and whip.

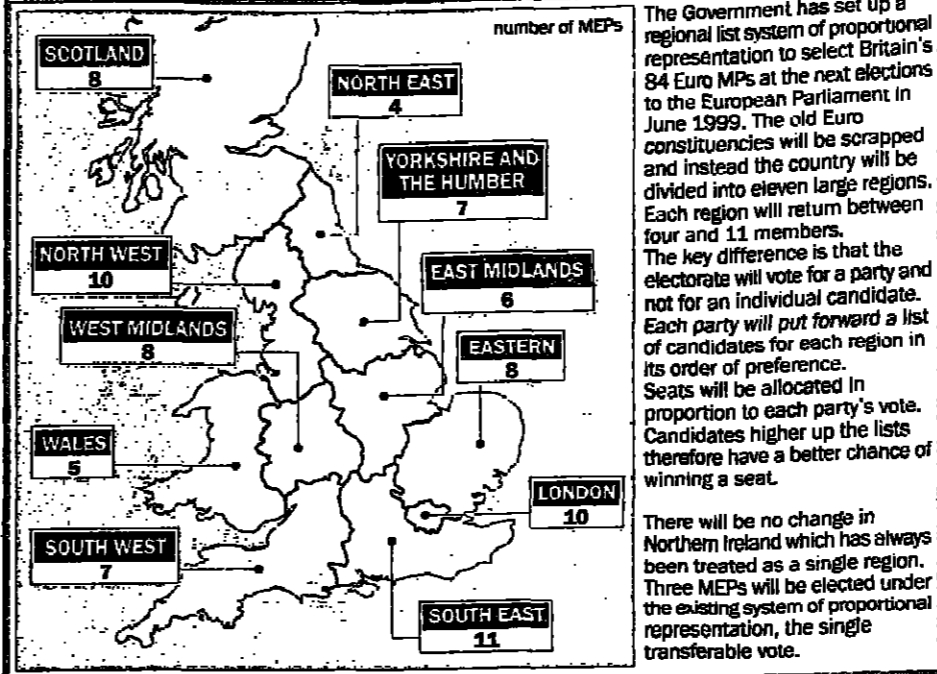
Former Tory MEPs on the list include Baroness Rawlings, Lord Inglewood, Margaret Daly, William Newton Dunn and Christopher Beazley. The Earl of Stockton, the son of Harold Macmillan, is also on the list, as is Lady Biffen, who failed to win her husband's former Westminster seat of Shropshire North last year after John Biffen was elevated to the Lords.

The Tories currently have 18 MEPs and under the new PR system should have at least 28 if people vote as they did in the general election. But Tory officials are hoping for at least 35.



No Euro future: Winston Churchill and Tony Marlow

## THE 11 NEW EURO REGIONS



The Government has set up a regional list system of proportional representation to select Britain's 84 Euro MPs at the next elections to the European Parliament in June 1999. The old Euro constituencies will be scrapped and instead the country will be divided into eleven large regions. Each region will return between four and 11 members. The key difference is that the electorate will vote for a party and not for an individual candidate. Each party will put forward a list of candidates for each region in its order of preference. Seats will be allocated in proportion to each party's vote. Candidates higher up the lists therefore have a better chance of winning a seat.

There will be no change in Northern Ireland which has always been treated as a single region. Three MEPs will be elected under the existing system of proportional representation, the single transferable vote.

## THE THREE WHO HAVE MADE THE FINAL SHORTLIST



The 30 former MPs who made a preliminary list of candidates: Richard Alexander, Robert Atkins, Keith Mans, Paul Marland, John Marshall, David Martin, Sir Roger Moate, Lord Newton of Braintree, Elizabeth Peacock, Dame Angela Rumbold, Robert Spink, Richard Tracey and Ian Twinn.

## Blair says his three children have it 'too easy'

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

TONY BLAIR fears that his children's lives are "too easy". In an interview published today the Prime Minister says that his three children suffer in some ways from having a well-known father.

But he says: "You've got to be able to make your own way, your own life, and I think to do well in life you need a little bit of struggle. It sort of worries me sometimes that things are a bit too easy for them."

Mr Blair was invited by *Evening* magazine to answer questions from six women who are bringing up children on their own. He reveals that he and Cherie, his wife, claim their child benefit every week, which totals £30.05, and says: "We do try to make sure that it gets spent on the children."

The Government is consulting on proposals to tax child benefit for claimants who pay 40 per cent tax. Mrs Blair, a QC, earns an estimated £300,000 a year. "Obviously people find it strange that people on a very, very high income end up getting the same child benefit as everyone else," Mr Blair says.

Asked how they afforded childcare when their children were small, Mr Blair says: "We coped then, when they were younger, the same as we do now. We just pay someone to come in. The same person has been with us now for quite some years... It's a complete act of faith to leave your kids with anybody. We agonised over it a lot but Cherie wanted to go back to work."

Mr Blair says that his wife's mother has done "large amounts of unpaid childcare" for them and that his father is very good with the children. "He says the great thing is that you can give them back."

Describing his children, Euan, 14, Nicola, 12, and Kathryn, 10, as "very normal", Mr Blair says: "It's hard for anyone with a parent who is very well-known, in two respects. One is getting hassled by people about it. And I've said to them there'll come a point when I'm no longer Prime Minister, and lots of people who want to know you now will not want to know you then."

Mr Blair says life for parents is "completely different" now from in the past. "It was sort of an act of faith for my dad that my mum would never work. Life was very simple, mum was there to look after the kids, the block went out to work, and that was it." Asked if he could cope on his own, the Prime Minister says: "If you have to be a single parent, you do it, don't you? I wouldn't want to be by choice."

## EU moves to block illegal immigrants

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE European Union is planning to help Turkey to create a network of reception centres to detain asylum-seekers and illegal immigrants and prevent them entering Europe.

The secret proposal is to offer Turkey financial and official assistance to set up the centres even though the Turkish Government is opposing giving the UN High Commissioner for Refugees a role in monitoring the centres. The plans will be discussed by EU home affairs and justice ministers today in Brussels.

The move has provoked anger among refugee groups and human rights organisations in Britain that are alarmed that Turkey has ruled out any involvement in the centres by the UN Commissioner for Human Rights. Turkey is increasingly being used as a transit point for illegal immigration but it

has ruled out imposing visa restrictions to stem the flow, arguing that they would not work because most migrants arrive across land frontiers.

The EU offer of help follows growing co-operation with Turkey, particularly over the involvement of organised crime in trafficking illegal immigrants through the country and the targeting of boats leaving Istanbul to smuggle migrants into Europe.

An internal EU document said that a meeting between officials and the deputy head of security in Istanbul had highlighted asylum-seekers and illegal immigrants from Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Turks told the EU that a particular method used by Egyptians seeking to enter Western Europe was to arrive legally in Turkey, travel onward to Albania and then move to the EU.

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# Pope seeks pilgrimage to Iraq

### Vatican aide to pave way with visit to Baghdad, Richard Owen writes

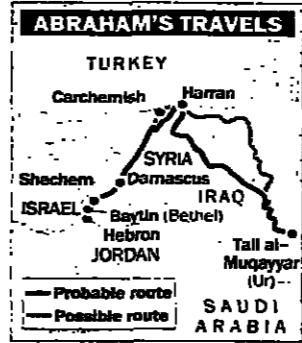
A SENIOR Vatican official is to travel to Baghdad early next month to pave the way for a trip by the Pope to Iraq as part of a papal tour of the Holy Land for the millennium celebrations.

Officials said the Pope, 78, believed a reconciliation of the three great monotheistic religions would crown his papacy, which this week became the longest of the 20th century.

Wednesday Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, is to brief the Security Council on the number of weapons of mass destruction still held by Iraq and the remaining steps to be taken by Baghdad if sanctions are to be reconsidered.

The Pope is said to want to begin with a pilgrimage to Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham was born in about 2000BC, in what was then Mesopotamia, now Iraq. Genesis records that Abraham, at first called Abram, was a descendant of Shem, one of the sons of Noah, and that he left Ur at the age of 75 after the death of his brother Haran and settled in Canaan (Palestine), building an altar at Shechem and then at Bethel.

The Bible further relates that Abraham and his family, including Sarah, his barren wife, and Lot, his brother's son, were driven by famine to Egypt, where Abraham was seduced by material prosper-



ty, becoming a rich farmer and allowing his wife to live with the Pharaoh. But he "heard the call again" and moved back to Canaan, making his "covenant with God" in a vision, and having one son, Ishmael, by the Egyptian slave girl Hagar and another by Sarah, Isaac.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 28 feared dead in air crash

Ulan Bator: A Mongolian Airlines plane carrying 28 people, including 12 children, crashed into a mountain and all those on board were feared dead, a government official said yesterday. Rescue workers at the scene found bodies but no survivors. The Chinese-built Yun-12 aircraft is designed to carry 19 passengers and crew. (Reuters)

### Plea for justice

Phnom Penh: Derek Fatchen, a Foreign Office Minister, has asked Cambodia to help to bring to justice those responsible for the 1976 murder of Christopher Howes, the British mine removal expert. (AP)

### Briton jailed

Singapore: Paul Wilson, 29, a British bank executive here, has been jailed for a week and fined \$3,000 (£1,100) for slapping a policeman in a row over a karaoke bar bill, a newspaper reported. (AP)

### Rector resigns

Belgrade: Dragan Kuburovic, the Rector of Belgrade University, quit over legislation which makes his job a state appointment. Thousands of students demonstrated in the Serbian capital.

### Thousands flee

Tbilisi: Up to 38,000 have fled fighting in the breakaway region of Abkhazia in recent days, including 30,000 ethnic Georgians who had returned after fleeing a 1992-93 war, Georgian officials said. (AP)

### Queen avenged

Kigali: A Rwandan court has sentenced two people to death and jailed one for life for murdering Rosalia Gicanda, the country's last Tutsi queen, during the 1994 genocide, state television said. (Reuters)

### Thief half-sorry

Stockholm: A Swedish thief wrote to his unemployed victim begging forgiveness and enclosing the owner's unemployment claim forms, but did not return his car. (Reuters)

## Israel TV staff punished for 'false' report

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israel Broadcasting Authority announced yesterday that it has disciplined four journalists for a television report it claimed was doctored to show Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, waving to a football crowd chanting "Death to the Arabs".

The authority alleged that while the crowd did chant "Death to the Arabs" briefly, the soundtrack had been edited to make it appear as if the Prime Minister could hear the chanting beneath the balcony while he waved.

The unprecedented disciplinary action taken by Uri Porat, the director-general recently appointed by Mr Netanyahu, was seen in political circles as the first move in a campaign to clamp down on alleged left-wing bias on Israel's main Channel One television station.

The editing fictitiously linked the chant "Death to the Arabs" to the Prime Minister's greetings," the authority said. "The report, in its broadcast form, created the impression that the Prime Minister heard the chants and encouraged them."



A woman carries her child through an illegal Jewish settlement established in Jerusalem's Old City this week

## Shocked Blair boosts Palestinian aid

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is to increase its aid to Palestinian refugees by a third, it will be announced today. The rise was ordered by Tony Blair, who was shocked at the conditions he saw in Palestinian refugee camps last month.

The new money, an increase of £2 million in Britain's annual contribution of £6 million, will be paid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the largest of UN agencies set up to deal with the 750,000 Palestinians made homeless by the creation of Israel.

Britain's increased contribution is timely, as the agency is facing a financial crisis that may force cuts in healthcare, training and basic rations. Its deficit this year is expected to reach £12 million, largely as a result of the 30 per cent increase in refugees in the past five years.

Mr Blair believes there is both a humanitarian and a political case for doing more for the refugees if the Middle East peace process is to be given substance. Some 1.4 million of the refugees live in Jordan and a further 746,000 in Gaza. Downing Street said that meeting their needs was crucial in creating the climate in which political progress could be made.

## Rush for abortions after legal challenge

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICAN hospitals and clinics say they have been inundated with requests for abortions from pregnant women who fear that the country's liberal law on termination may be overturned by a constitutional challenge.

Pretoria High Court will rule on whether abortion violates a foetus's right to life after three Christian groups, including a lawyers' organisation, challenged the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act on the ground that life begins at conception. Eddie Mshlanga, director of the National Child and Maternity Health Programme, said he had gone on the radio to reassure pregnant women that the Act, which entitled them to abortions, was still on the statute books. "We took at least 20 calls in my own office yesterday. I had to go on air to reassure people all over the country who... have been calling their local hospitals and are very worried."

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Blair says his three children have it too easy

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# Irish-Americans cast a cold eye on Ulster 'sell-out'

Gerry Adams has lost no time in capitalising on the Irish settlement vote and leaping on a plane across the Atlantic.

Last night he was set to attend two fundraisers in New York — a \$250-a-head cocktail party and a \$1,000-a-head dinner — to help to fund Sinn Fein's campaign for the Northern Ireland Assembly vote.

He should have no problem in hitting that immediate goal. His previous trips have pulled in several hundred thousand dollars effortlessly and Sinn Fein's central role in the peace process has brightened even further the aura of radical chic that Irish New Yorkers perceive around him.

But he — and others who supported the settlement — face a trickier political task: convincing



AMERICAN AGENDA  
BRONWEN MADDOX

the many Irish-Americans who are ambivalent about the deal to back it too. Newsweek detected this week a "batle for the soul of republicanism" across the United States.

There is quiet concern in the White House that, nearly a week after the referendum, many Irish-American eyes aren't smiling.

In the huge Irish communities of New York, Boston and Detroit there are cries of a sell-out, of betrayal, or of an acceptance so grudging it is barely worth the name.

In a broadside that catches the spirit of that unease Terry Golway, deputy editor of the *New York Observer*, argues that the proposed reforms "are important, historic and indeed welcome. But reform is not revolution and the IRA, Sinn Fein and their American supporters have spent 30 years calling for nothing else... The settlement does not satisfy the demands of those, Irish and American, who believe Ireland should be united

and free of Britain." According to Congressman Peter King, the New York representative who played a central part in keeping open American lines of communication to Mr Adams, these attacks are untypical: "I would say the overwhelming majority [of Irish Americans] support the settlement."

The main concern, he says, is simply that the settlement "may not be fully enforced. The British Government may move the goalposts, or Unionists may obstruct it." It is the US's job to monitor the deal and "apply public pressure", he argues.

Mr King, whose grand-uncle was an IRA volunteer and who was raised on tales of Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera, may be sensitive to the romance of the nationalist cause but has still mastered

the language of pragmatism. Echoing Sinn Fein's description of the deal as "transitional", Mr King calls it a "significant step forward". Indeed, that is the favoured metaphor of those supporting the deal: Brian O'Dwyer, chairman of the New York-based Emerald Isle Immigration Centre, calls it "a first step" while Mr Golway calls it "a stepping stone".

But not all of America's 40 million who claim Irish descent share that language of compromise. In a tour in the past month, Bernadette Sands-McKeivitt, sister of Bobby Sands, the hunger striker, stirred up support for her claim that the deal betrayed the cause of independence for which her brother died. Many Irish-Americans have also

protested strongly against the notion that the IRA should disarm. Many others remain bluntly pessimistic: Michael Cummings, national secretary of the Irish-American Unity Conference, argues that "peace now has a chance in Ireland. But because of Britain's meddlesome role, that chance is slim."

For President Clinton himself, credited on all sides with a crucial role in the last-minute telephone diplomacy, the settlement has so far been a personal triumph. He has been compared repeatedly to President Kennedy, said to be his dearest wish.

His impulsiveness and sentimentality have won plaudits, for once. As Maureen Dowd, the acerbic *New York Times* columnist, put it: "The Irish do not believe in

therapy. They prefer to make confessions in a dark box. Yet Bill Clinton, with his psychobabble, self-revelation and New Age gurus, appointed himself the facilitator of Belfast's blood feud. He put the Irish on the couch. He felt their pain."

The Irish-American community has come a long way from the days when it supported by reflex almost any nationalist cause. But if Mr Clinton and other prominent supporters of the settlement want to wield that public pressure to make the settlement stick, they will have to go further to court the firebrands and dissenters. Those probably outnumber the entire population of the island of Ireland and still feel they have an interest — which they will back with cash — in the final outcome.

## Theatre bows to faithful

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A THEATRE off Broadway has cancelled a forthcoming production of a new play based loosely on the life of Christ after complaints of blasphemy by Roman Catholics.

The play, *Corpus Christi*, by Terrence McNally, depicts a Jesus-like character called Joshua having sex with the Apostles. Although few people have seen the script, the Manhattan Theatre Club was deluged with protests and decided to cancel the run.

The playwright Tony Kushner complained that "this is a medieval notion that the arts in the US need to follow the Roman Catholic theological line". But the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights said the decision was a moral victory.

## Cardinal condemns Bill for New York gay rights

AMERICA'S leading Roman Catholic cleric has criticised Rudolph Giuliani, New York's mayor, over an impending city law that would extend full legal rights to homosexual couples, putting them on a par with married couples.

Speaking from the pulpit at St Patrick's Cathedral here, Cardinal John O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, described the new law as "contrary to natural law and Western tradition".

The archbishop's ire was directed at the mayor's Domestic Partnership Bill, now before the City Council, which would force municipal agencies to treat all unmarried couples — whether gay or heterosexual — as they would married couples, giving them the same rights in such areas as housing and death benefits.

Unmarried couples, regardless of sexual orientation, would also be eligible for "family" health insurance. The Bill is expected to sail

Giuliani is seeking equal rights for all couples, Tunku

Varadarajan writes

through, since it is backed not only by Mr Giuliani, but also by Peter Vallone, the Speaker, who is a powerful voice in the Catholic community.

But Cardinal O'Connor, who has a history of intervention in the city's political debates, has said that the legislation could provoke "moral and cultural changes in our society neither anticipated nor traditionally desired from our earliest days as a people".

In a homily packed with references to such authorities — both spiritual and temporal — as Pope John Paul II, Cicero and the United States Su-

preme Court, the archbishop said: "Marriage matters supremely to every person and every institution in our society. It is imperative, in my judgment, that no law be passed contrary to natural moral law and Western tradition by virtually legislating that marriage does not matter."

The mayor is determined to stand by his Bill. Although a conservative, his politics are more pragmatic than doctrinaire: a tenacious fighter of crime and labour unrest, he is nonetheless sympathetic to various gay causes, in part in response to New York's powerful gay rights lobby.

Last night Mr Giuliani said: "The cardinal is a religious leader. He has every right to preach and to argue for his moral point of view. My analysis of it is that this is a human rights issue. What it really is doing is preventing discrimination against people who have different sexual orientations."



Matthew Broderick and Maria Pitillo in a scene from the film, which some cinemas showed around the clock

## Fans eschew Godzilla

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

GODZILLA, the most breathlessly promoted film since *Independence Day*, managed to earn \$5 million (\$34 million) on its opening weekend and yet was still considered a failure.

The film about a skyscraper-munching lizard eclipsed its many predecessors in terms of cost and special effects and was expected to smash last year's \$92 million box office record for the first weekend of summer, set by the sequel to *Jurassic Park*. Instead it got back less than a third of what it cost to make and market.

With a budget of \$120 million and a \$50 million advertising campaign, *Godzilla* was a high-stakes undertaking for Sony Pictures, raising



Godzilla: dismissed as a lightweight

high hopes in cinema chains. Some multiplexes showed it on ten screens at once over the weekend, with a few cinemas in New York and Los Angeles screening it

around the clock. The film broke records by opening on more than 7,000 screens, but to less than packed houses.

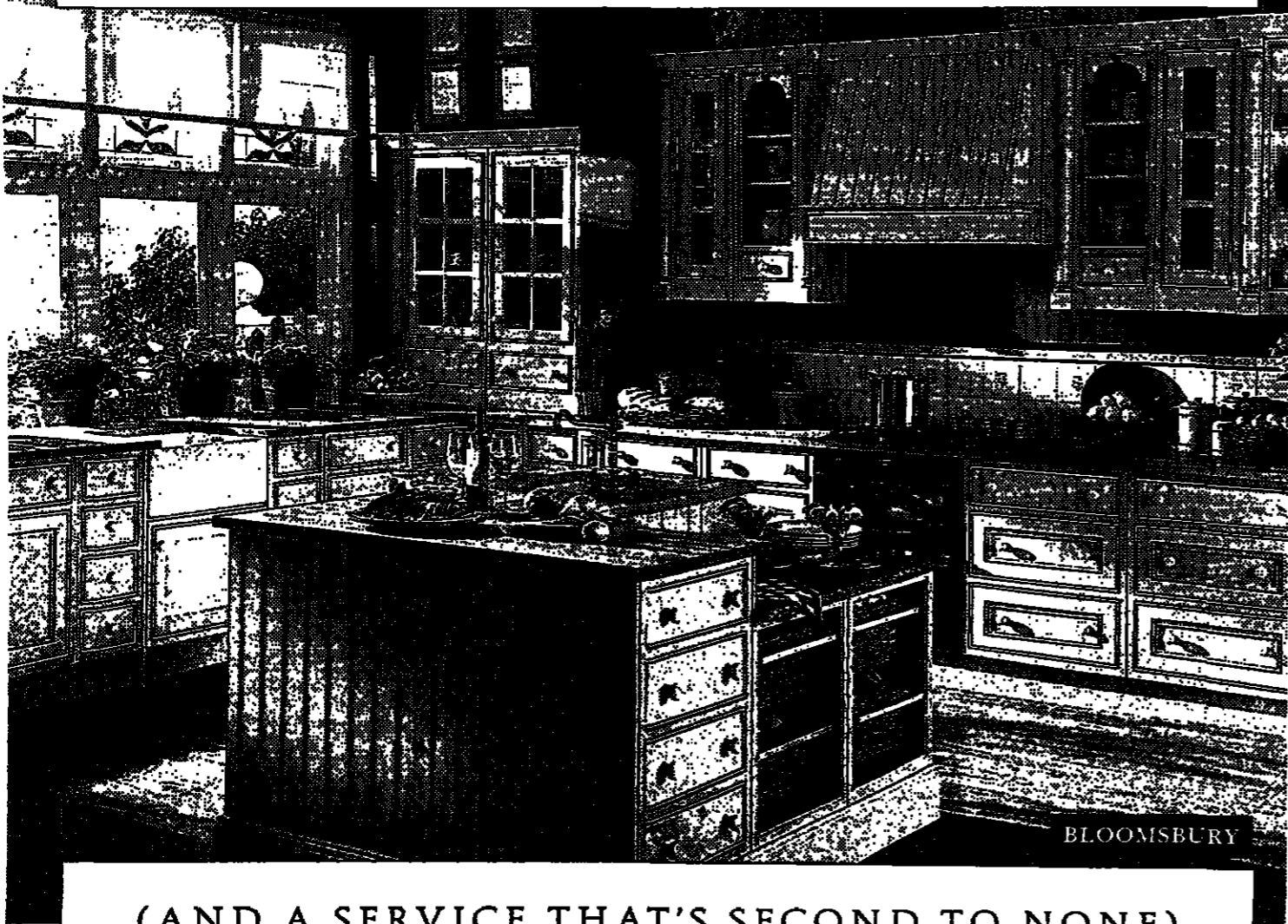
"In a word, *Godzilla* was a disappointment," said Arthur Rockwell, an industry analyst. "We're not looking at a flop. It's just not the kind of blockbuster that Sony was looking for."

James Maslin in *The New York Times* savaged the script about a giant reptile mutated by nuclear testing in the South Pacific, saying it made *Independence Day* look like *Henry James*.

The *Boston Globe* dismissed *Godzilla* as a "lightweight heavyweight", while *The Washington Post* called it "overhyped, half-cooked and humourless". The *New York Post* admitted feeling "more than two hours of extremely guilty pleasure".

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	£10,000	15.9%	£278.49	£13,263.28
LLOYDS	£4,000	16.9%	£117.80	£5,314.48
	£10,000	13.8%	£264.64	£12,894.64
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Lawyer demands Lewin evidence

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0800



# Lawyers demand Lewinsky evidence

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PROSECUTORS last night made further efforts to corroborate the alleged sexual relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, demanding fingerprints, voice and handwriting samples from the former White House trainee.

Ms Lewinsky, 24, visiting her father in California, was expected to provide the samples at a federal building in Los Angeles, where they will be analysed by the FBI.

The specimens are part of the detailed investigation by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, into allegations of whether Mr Clinton conducted an 18-month affair with the trainee at the White House when she was 21 and later asked her to lie about it.

Mr Starr first subpoenaed the voice and fingerprint samples in January as part of a requirement that Ms Lewinsky appear before his grand jury in Washington, but suspended the demands while her lawyers argued over a possible immunity deal.

The decision to go ahead this week marked a shift in the case, after negotiations between the two sides collapsed last month. The Lewinsky family is said to be seeking a new criminal lawyer after concluding that she faces imminent indictment if she makes no deal to tell her story to the grand jury.

Mr Starr's aides have reconstructed every element of the former trainee's life, obtaining billing records, computer files, e-mail correspondence and telephone records. Ms Lewinsky has also handed in address books, some clothing and the credit card receipts which prosecutors hope will prove

that she gave a number of gifts to Mr Clinton, including a tie. Already in their possession are a series of presents Mr Clinton is alleged to have given the former West Wing trainee, who then returned them to Betty Currie, the President's private secretary.

Mr Starr has subpoenaed records from a Washington book shop of Ms Lewinsky's purchase of a novel about phone sex mentioned on more than 20 hours of tapes recorded by Linda Tripp, her former confidante.

By building a picture of her daily routine and the 37 logged visits to the White House after her hurried transfer to the Pentagon, the prosecutor hopes to substantiate Ms Lewinsky's taped comments about the alleged presidential affair. She has since denied the statements.

In the taped conversations, Ms Lewinsky reportedly said she engaged in oral sex with the President. When she first sought a deal with Mr Starr for full immunity, she signalled she was prepared to testify about the acts.

Without making a deal to testify, Ms Lewinsky faces an array of charges, including perjury and obstruction of justice and subornation of perjury.

"We are anticipating the full boat," William Ginsburg, her lawyer, said last week. "We are assuming there will be a grand jury appearance and there will be an indictment."

The grand jury has almost finished with its array of witnesses in the case, Francis Carter, Ms Lewinsky's first lawyer, and Ms Tripp herself are the only two still to be called.



Monica Lewinsky: is expected to be fingerprinted

# Literati take the love boat

350 women took to the Caribbean to learn and teach the sizzling art of romantic fiction, reports Ian Brodie

ROMANTIC fantasies were discussed earnestly by more than 350 women who have just taken a Caribbean cruise.

The passengers were would-be writers of romantic fiction, established authors eager to teach them and avid readers who attended seminars on such topics as "How much sex is too much?"

The writing workshops included lessons in character development, emphasising the need for romantic heroines to be strong, intelligent and able to triumph over adversity. Heroes can be wild, buccaners even, but must also be courageous and, ultimately, tamed by the heroine.

There were racier sessions where male models vied for the title of "Mr Romance". The winner was assured a torrid embrace on the cover of a forthcoming bodice-ripper. Cheered on by ogling women, the men strutted about in jeans, bare-chested and flexing their pectorals in a half rather than full moon.

The romantic book-lovers' convention, known informally as the literary love boat, was organised by Kathryn Falk, a flamboyant, fiftyish American who founded *Romantic Times*, a monthly devoted to news and reviews of paperback passion.

Ms Falk has created her

own happy ending by buying the title to the Manor of Barrow, a village in Suffolk, for £60,000 from the Marquess of Bristol. She styles herself Lady of Barrow, which sounds so much like a character from romantic fiction that one expects a highwayman to come riding by.

In romantic fiction, the heroine invariably spurns the hero, only to discover through various conflicts that Mr Wrong was actually Mr Right. A typical synopsis be-

gins: "Yves Saint Roux, a bastard, is offered legitimacy if he champions a nobleman's widow and reclaims her property. He refuses. Then he meets the widow..." These are no ordinary folk. They have first names like Clayton, Meredith, Morgan, Willow, Fallon or Paige; never Fred or Ethel.

Ms Falk snorted: "Nobody wants to read about Fred and Ethel. These books are grown-up fairy tales. They require characters who trigger your

fantasies. They're about alpha males captivated by women who make them commit. It's a dream that seldom happens in real life. Think of Prince Charles, Bill Clinton or Donald Trump, all alpha males with status and leadership. How to you get these guys to commit?"

Romantic fiction is a huge market. In the US alone, 120 titles are published every month. More than 25 million women readers with a median age of 35 buy the books, spending the equivalent of £500 million.

Among those sailing on the *Celebration* from Florida to Mexico was Eida K. Bradbury, a married nurse and aspiring writer of romantic fiction. In three years she has written 30 unpublished novels and cheerfully refuses to give up. She is convinced her yarns will sell eventually.

During the cruise she learnt the no-no's of romantic fiction: no writing in the first person, no dirty dishes or laundry, no cranky children, no heroes with red hair.

Sex is no longer a no-no. Or, as they say in the trade, the bedroom door is now open. Books are rated sweet for no explicit sex, *sensual* for conventional lovemaking, *spicy* for very explicit sex and *sexy* — bordering on erotica.



The romantic clinch favoured by Kathryn Falk

# Echoes of Salem in child abuse inquiry

BY TOM RHODES

MORE than 300 years after the Salem witch hunts featured in his play, *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller yesterday demanded a federal inquiry into the frenzy of false charges surrounding another small American town: home to the biggest sex abuse case in US history.

The story of Wenatchee, an apple-growing community in Washington state, rocked the nation between 1992 and 1995 when 43 adults were charged with 29,726 counts of child rape and molestation involving 60 children. Its subsequent investigation, however, has proved as disturbing as the charges. Miller, most famous for his play about the Massachusetts witch-hunts, is leading a group seeking a Justice Department inquiry and congressional hearings into the arrests.

Appearing at the New York Academy of Sciences yesterday, the Human Rights Coalition, which also includes William Styron, author of *Sophie's Choice*, and Mike Wallace, the veteran CBS anchor, demanded that Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, investigate possible civil rights abuses at Wenatchee.

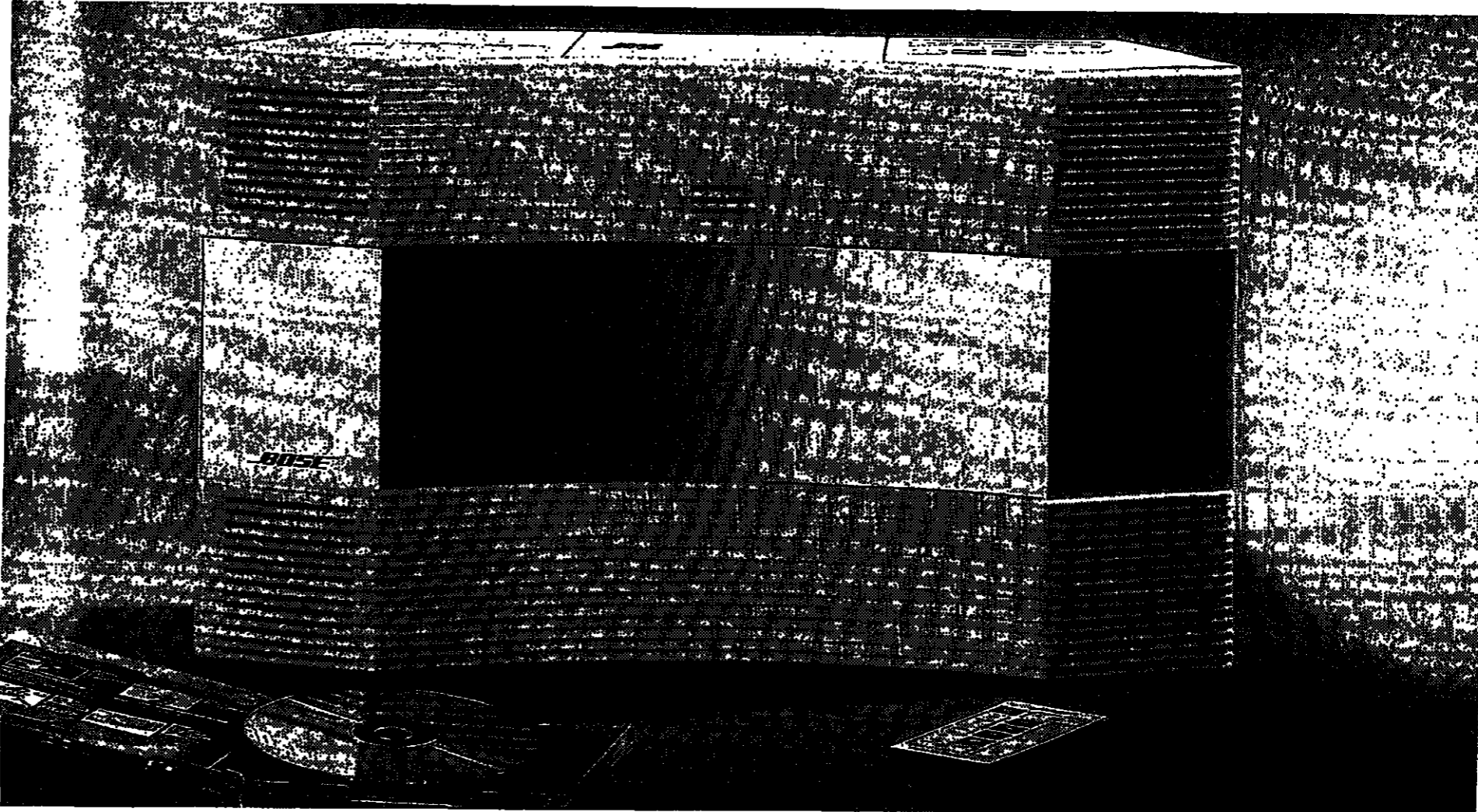
They also urged the Department of Health to examine

purported improprieties by child-abuse case workers in the town, where people confessed to crimes they now say were never committed and where children who made shocking accusations now claim they never happened.

Wenatchee began with one girl, Melinda Everett, then nine, who told her school counsellor that two boys had touched her genitals. Police and social workers later decided that others were at fault, including parents, neighbours and members of a Pentecostal church, who were said to have taken part in multiple orgies. Dozens were imprisoned and their children sent to foster homes.

Sixteen of the accused, alleged to have committed their deeds dressed in black robes and sunglasses, remain in prison. Others have filed a \$100 million (£60 million) lawsuit against officials for false accusations.

Next week, the coalition will file a complaint in Washington seeking a halt to funding for the child protection agencies that make such tragedies possible. Although Ms Reno declined to begin a federal inquiry two years ago, she said this year that the Justice Department might reconsider.



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# Danes braced to upset Brussels

THE Prime Minister of Denmark, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, looked worried as he wandered up the street from the Folketing (parliament) yesterday to hand red roses to Copenhagen's lunchtime shoppers and urge them to vote "yes for Europe".

Opinion polls suggest that the European Union's biggest sceptics will back the Treaty of Amsterdam in a referendum today, spurring the EU a repeat of Denmark's rejection in June 1992 of the Maastricht plan. But, as the shock of 1992 showed, Danish voters enjoy confounding pollsters. With up to a fifth still undecided yesterday and under half saying they favour the treaty, Mr Rasmussen's centre-left coalition and the pro-European opposition are braced for possible rejection.

Under EU rules a *nej* would scupper the Amsterdam treaty, which must be ratified by EU parliaments and put to plebiscite in Denmark and the Irish Republic. A "no" would also cast strong doubt over Denmark's continued EU membership. The other capitals are in no mood to tailor another special version for

**Pro-Europeans are heading for another setback, writes Charles**

**Bremner**

Copenhagen, with multiple opt-outs of the kind that won Danish assent in a repeat referendum in 1993.

Mr Rasmussen is aware of the stakes. "Please come out and vote 'yes' tomorrow. We must not let Denmark be pushed out of the mainstream, stuck on the edge of Europe," he begged passers-by.

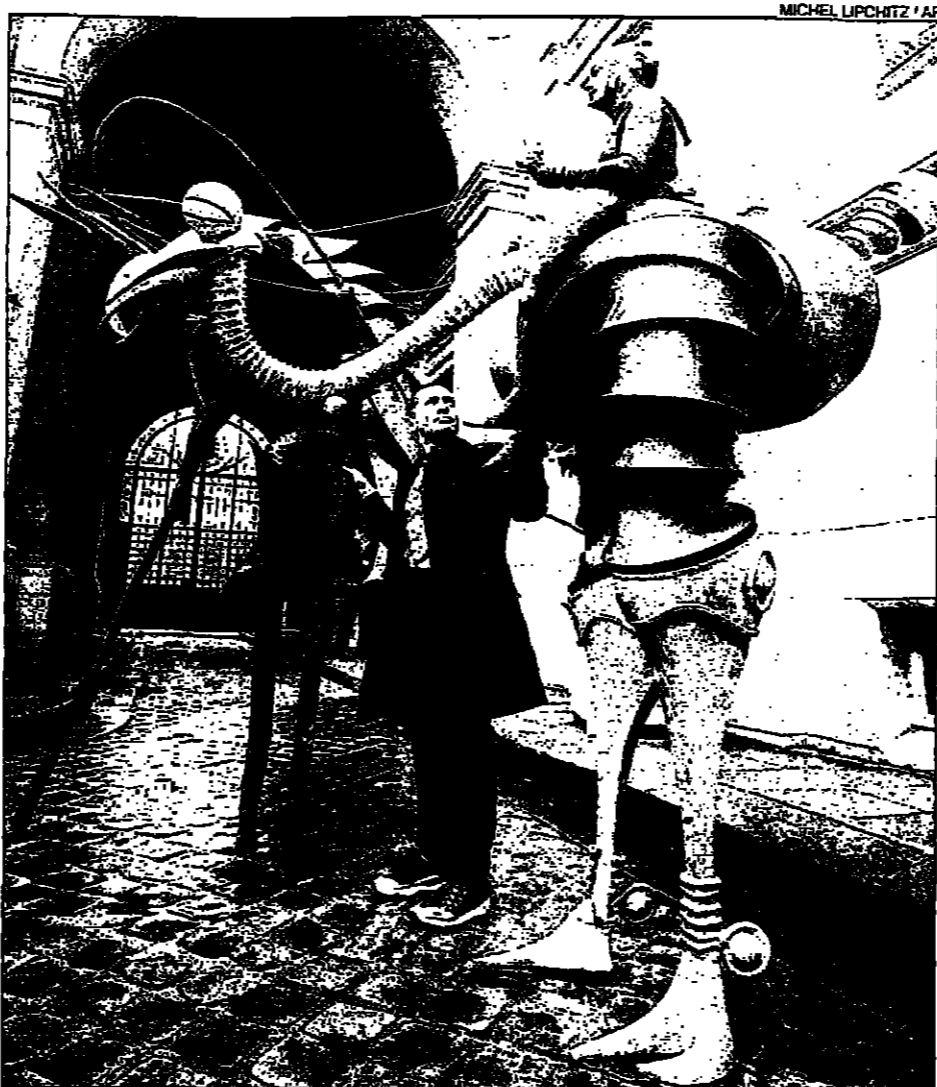
Round the corner in Amager Torv, Drude Dahlerup, a leader of the anti-Amsterdam "June Movement", was accosting pedestrians on behalf of the "no" campaign. In language from the lexicon of Messrs Hague and Howard, she said: "This ever closer union is a step in the wrong direction... We need a more realistic and down-to-earth project."

The arguments of both camps are confusing to a public that is far from clear about what they are being asked to endorse. On both sides, emotion has prevailed to a great extent, with recitals of all that is good or bad in Denmark's 25 years of Community membership.

One extreme can be found at the gates of the Folketing, where Pastor Moses Hansen, an evangelical Lutheran, has pitched his tent "on the Lord's command" to press for a "no" because a "yes" would "open the way to the domination of the Roman Catholic Church".

Mr Rasmussen's team insists that Amsterdam will benefit Denmark because it will ensure that refugees from the East are spread more evenly around the Union. The political establishment and the business world say that the treaty responds to the Danes' traditionally jaundiced view of Europe because it marks a step back from deeper integration and towards opening up the Union to the East, greater internal transparency and a focus on the environment.

Leading article, page 23



High tackle: designer Jean-Pascal Levy-Trumet yesterday revealing two of his creations for a Paris procession on the eve of the football World Cup on June 9

# Juppé denies role in Paris corruption

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPE, the French former Prime Minister, may be the next senior conservative politician to be drawn into a damaging party funding corruption scandal, according to a French news report yesterday which drew angry denials from President Chirac.

*Le Monde* reported that a "crisis unit" had been set up at the Elysée Palace in case M Juppé, now Mayor of Bordeaux, becomes implicated in an investigation into the funding of the Gaullist RPR party founded by M Chirac. The party is already fighting allegations that up to 300 people, many of them RPR supporters or workers, were on the city hall payroll when M Chirac was Mayor of Paris.

The paper said that the expanding judicial investigation "could lead Patrick Desmure, the investigating magistrate, to interrogate M Juppé about his former double role as Deputy Mayor of Paris and secretary-general of the RPR".

M Juppé was ousted as Prime Minister at last year's legislative elections. He was

Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of the city's finances from 1983 to 1995 and secretary-general of the Gaullist party from 1988 to 1995.

Within an hour of the publication of the *Le Monde* report the President's office issued a statement denying the allegations and insisting that no task force had been set up around M Chirac's long-time ally. "No crisis unit of this sort exists and the Elysée regrets that *Le Monde* did not take the trouble to check its information before publication," the statement said.

M Juppé also issued a statement expressing his indignation at what he said was "ostensibly a bid to exercise media and political pressure aimed at influencing the course of justice".

*Le Monde* claimed that the purported presidential task force to deal with corruption investigations included Dominique de Villepin, secretary-general at the Elysée, and a legal adviser to the President.

A series of investigations into party financing has been under way since 1994.

# Habibie fails to allay fears of returning Chinese

James Pringle in Jakarta reports on the gloom pervading Chinatown

INDONESIANS of Chinese origin were pouring back into Jakarta yesterday from their refuges abroad, and heading for their wrecked homes after President Habibie had toured riot-hit Chinatown and expressed his sadness over the unrest that, he said, had caused so much suffering.

But Chinatown residents said they still feared fresh violence and wondered just how much trust they could put in the protégé of former President Suharto.

Flights from Singapore, Hong Kong and elsewhere in the Chinese diaspora were packed with returning ethnic Chinese. "We can't stay in overseas hotels forever, and want to pick up the pieces, but we are nervous," said one woman, who was arriving from Singapore.

Parts of smoke-blackened Chinatown around the Glodok market still look like Beirut during its worst days. "We don't know what to do," said Jahyadi Djuhana, 51, peering into his gutted electronic shop, alongside his wife Lee Mei and ten-year-old daughter Sylvie. "We've lost everything."

As he spoke, native Indonesians continued to carry humps of scrap iron from shops and homes to earn enough to buy bus tickets home to their villages. They have little chance of a job in the capital.

Individual Chinese in the

warren of little streets — a kind of mini-ghetto — around Glodok market said they were staying in case looters returned. "I'm still very frightened," said one middle-aged woman, pointing to the shell of her house. "When the mobs came here they set fire to houses more than a storey high and no firemen ever arrived."

An 82-year-old man spoke of those who had torched Chinatown. "Someone high up told them they could kill Chinese, loot our goods and rape Chinese girls," he said, echoing an often repeated allegation.

Under President Suharto, Chinese schools were closed, and written Chinese characters banned from display. Chinese were barred from government offices and most professions, limiting them to trade. It is illegal to celebrate Chinese new year.

Nothing is likely to change soon. Dr Habibie, who has links with Muslim figures, has been critical in the past of Indonesia's Chinese businessmen who controlled two thirds of the economy. Yet their participation is seen as crucial in putting the ravaged economy back together.

Police chief sacked: Major-General Hamami Nata, the metropolitan police chief, is to be replaced, less than two weeks after the riots. He will hand over office to Major-General Nugroho Djajusman today. (Reuters)



Workers at a demonstration in Seoul yesterday

# Strikes hit Korea

Seoul: About 120,000 South Korean workers launched a nationwide strike yesterday, paralysing industry as they demanded action to end waves of redundancies.

"No layoffs," 1,500 union members chanted as they marched in Seoul, the capital, undaunted by riot police armed with water cannon, clubs and teargas rifles. "Let's fight to protect our jobs," they shouted during a march through a commercial district of the city centre.

A nationwide strike was launched by the militant Korean Confederation of Trade Unions. The confederation accuses the Government and management of failing to honour an accord with the unions that called for all

sectors to share sacrifices to fight the economic crisis, which forced South Korea to ask the International Monetary Fund for \$57 billion (£35 billion) last December.

"What we are demanding is not out of the question. We demand an end to layoffs which force only workers to make sacrifices," a union leader said.

Strikes and rallies were peaceful, but employers said the action could hurt the country's chances of early recovery. "A full-fledged strike at a time when the Government, management and labour should join hands to save the economy does nothing but kill it," said the Korean Federation of Industries. (AFP)

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# New drug to ease signs of dementia



**Dr Thomas Stuttaford on Alzheimer's disease; Asperger's syndrome; contact lenses; heart attacks; lead poisoning**

Photographs of the time show that although Auguste was 51, she looked 10 years older, with a haggard, sad, perplexed face crowned with long, lank hair. Auguste, a German woman from Frankfurt am Main, was referred in 1901 to Alois Alzheimer, a neurologist in the town. By the time Auguste saw Dr Alzheimer, her memory

was already fading and her intellectual capacity had diminished to the point where she did not always understand questions, or give reasonable answers to them, even when they were quite simple. She also showed signs of paranoia and disorientation, and sometimes had hallucinations. Auguste died five years later, but her name lives on in medical history. She was the



Colin Jackson sports the Union Jack look. Changing your eye colour is much in vogue, but all contact lenses must be looked after carefully to minimise the risk of infection

**THE HURDLER** Colin Jackson, in a surfeit of patriotism, wore Union Jack contact lenses at the 1994 world athletics championships. Actors and actresses have also been known to change the colour of their eyes to suit a particular role. The habit of using decorated lenses has even spread to teenage clubbers. But contact lenses need careful fitting, and must be kept as clean and sterile as possible. Each year, even when the best medical advice is

## Red, white and blue eyes

followed, one in 2,000 wearers will need treatment for an eye infection. The risk from buying coloured lenses through mail order is thought to be much greater — and the habit of swapping lenses is even worse. The patient with red eyes is often less concerned about them than is the doctor, who

knows that although most cases will have an easily treatable cause, this can be the first sign of a more serious condition. It is always necessary to exclude the possibility of glaucoma, uveitis, iritis or corneal ulcers. In a review of the treatment for red eyes in *Pulse* magazine, Dr Mike Wyndham writes

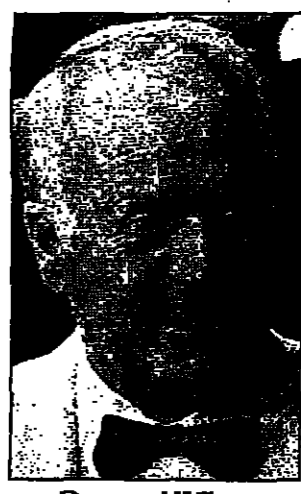
that the condition accounts for between 2 and 5 per cent of all GP consultations. The doctor's first duty is to ensure there is nothing in the patient's eye, such as a speck of dust. Most red eyes are the result of an allergy. They will itch, and there will usually have been other symptoms. A heavy discharge suggests that the infection may be bacterial — maybe a sexually transmitted infection. Chlamydia and gonorrhoea are as at home in the eye as in the genital region.

## Heavy metal hazard

THE dangers of inner-city children developing lead poisoning from traffic fumes received more publicity last week. Now scientists have discovered that children born with silver spoons in their mouths, and antique tableware to eat with, may also be at risk from lead poisoning. Research chemists in Missouri have tested antique crockery and found that the ancestral dinner service may contain quantities of lead at levels which pose a theoretical problem. One Japanese plate exceeded modern safety limits by 250 times. Presumably some of our older educational establishments would have noticed by now if the risk was real, rather than theoretical.

## Chestiness that harms the heart

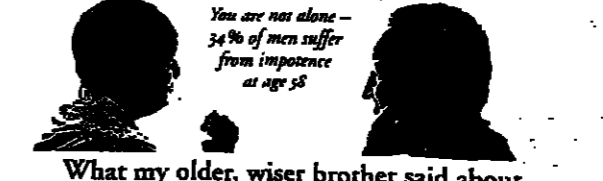
DESMOND WILCOX'S many fans will be relieved to hear that he is recovering from his heart attack. His troubles coincided with a report in *The Lancet* on the study of the causes of heart disease. Researchers have been analysing the long-held belief that the common cold and acute respiratory tract infections can trigger a heart attack. Their studies show that on this occasion established anecdotal evidence can be supported by scientific investigation.



Desmond Wilcox

The research, which investigated 10,000 patients under 75, found that the chance of having a heart attack was three times greater during the ten days after an acute respiratory tract infection, from a viral cough accompanying a cold through to severe bronchitis and pneumonia. The cause of coronary thrombosis associated with chest infections is probably multifactorial. In some cases, severe respiratory tract infections may reduce levels of oxygen in the blood. Last year there was another study, also published in *The*

*Lancet*, by Dr John Danesh, Professor Rory Collins and Professor Richard Peto of Oxford University. Their research, funded by the British Heart Foundation, studied the effect of three infecting organisms on heart attacks. One, *Chlamydia pneumoniae* — a cause of persistent chest infection — could be shown to be associated with coronary arterial disease.



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first patient in whom the progress of dementia was progressively studied and charted by Dr Alzheimer. In 1907 he published his first treatise on dementia using her as his case study. Dementia has been recognised since time immemorial. Worldwide, 20 million people now have it, with varying degrees of severity. In Britain there are 600,000 sufferers, most — but not all — of them elderly, of whom 55.6 per cent have Alzheimer's disease and probably about 20 per cent Lewy body dementia. The latter is similar to Alzheimer's but differs in the symptoms, the response to some forms of treatment and the microscopic appearance of the brain tissue. The incidence of Alzheimer's is likely to increase by 25 per cent in the next generation as people live longer, but it is not the inevitable consequence of ageing. It is so widespread

that any new medication for its treatment is important. Exelon rivastigmine, an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor used in the treatment of Alzheimer's, is available from British pharmacies as of today. Exelon, recommended for mild to moderate cases, halts the rate of decline (for a time) in 50 per cent of patients, and induces improvement in 35 per cent. It is not only patients' memories that improve, but their mental agility and concentration as well. Exelon also enhances social skills and leads to greater independence — patients are better at dressing and eating, and often are able to go to the lavatory unaided. In the less severe cases, patients were not as likely to forget the names and faces of people they knew and could do housework and pursue their interests. They had livelier conversation and were less likely to ask the same

question ten times in an hour or to repeat the same story at regular intervals. Exelon — which is not the first acetylcholinesterase inhibitor: the award-winning Aricept has been shown to delay memory loss — was tested on 3,300 patients. All of the older age groups were represented in the trial — 90 per cent of those who took part were over 80. There is only a minimal risk of drug interaction with Exelon and the only troublesome side-effects were those typical of such inhibitors: occasional nausea or vomiting. Alzheimer's causes a gradual decline in memory, emotional response, language skills and mobility. Geographical sense may be diminished, so patients easily become lost. The altered emotional response is not only related to

## The 'mad professor' syndrome

Angela Browning's decision to renounce a high-flying political career so that she may have more time to look after her son, Robin, who has Asperger's syndrome, has drawn attention to a condition that is still under-recognised. Although some studies have suggested that Asperger's syndrome may be three times more common than autism, a description of it is still omitted from many standard textbooks. Mrs Browning's decision will not only benefit Robin, but will also have helped to publicise the syndrome, which was first described by Hans Asperger in 1944. A year earlier, Dr L. Kanner, an American, had defined autism. The outstanding characteristics of the disorder were those that have been described as contributing to "life-long social isolation and conspicuous eccentricity". It is now widely assumed that Asperger's syndrome is similar to autism but the children frequently have a normal IQ and no severe language problems. Later, as adults, they are abnormally solitary, avoid eye contact, fail to understand facial expressions and use inappropriate



Angela Browning will be campaigning no more

gestures. They are insensitive to other people's feelings, aloof and not unattractively fail to establish empathy with those around them. If their intelligence is unimpaired, they may display all the characteristics of the mad professor. Distant and with a rigid behavioural pattern, they may have an inventive mind capable of highly original thought. The sufferers have a habit of accumulating vast amounts of knowledge about very limited subjects. People with Asperger's who

are less bright than normal may still have the ability to work out seemingly intricate sums in their head. Robin Browning, it seems, has an uncanny ability to remember birthdays and parliamentary majorities, and can translate dates into days of the week in a flash. However, Robin does not have the temperament to hold down a job and like many people with Asperger's, leads a very well-routinised life. Two or three years ago I was involved with the care of a family in which their 13-year-old suffered from Asperger's syndrome. If he did not have his meals served at precisely the same time, if his table placing was at all out of order, there would be a dreadful and violent rage. The first case of Asperger's I came across I can diagnose only in retrospect. The man was at school with me, friendless, offhand, detached, with few, if any, social skills. He languished around the bottom third of the form, interested only in butterflies and moths. His knowledge of these was encyclopaedic. He managed to learn enough physics and chemistry, which — combined with his love of biology — enabled him to go to university. Since then he has literally become "a mad professor" at an American university where, although an eccentric, his knowledge of butterflies has won him worldwide respect. Although the earlier idea that Asperger's was related to a schizoid personality has been abandoned, it is still thought that there is a strong genetic component to its development. Any suggestion that Asperger's is the result of upbringing, or unfortunate early experiences, is rejected.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

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# The dark side of the suburbs

The first rule of living in a suburb is never to get involved, says Celia Brayfield



"Chiswick is famous for its village atmosphere, but that's all there is — atmosphere. We've taken a village concept and thrown out the humanity"

I have a fantasy about the Hogarth roundabout. If you don't know this particular roundabout, you know one like it: it is the clogged aortic valve in London's traffic circulation, traversed and cursed by a million motorists a day. In my fantasy there is a huge illuminated sign flashing over the slip road to Chiswick from the Hogarth roundabout. It reads: "LEAVE YOUR BRAIN BEHIND BEFORE ENTERING THE SUBURBS."

There's something about Chiswick. It's London's La-la-land: the smoggy mecca of Volvo culture, a place that begs for ridicule. Chiswick is the inspiration for my first comic novel, *Getting Home*, but in satirising the place I'm following in the footsteps of G.K. Chesterton and half a dozen other authors.

realised that a suburb isn't a community, quite the opposite. It's just a freak of geography whose inhabitants are trying to ignore each other. An example of what I mean: a neighbour had a fundraising buffet supper in aid of our school. Her husband, who was beginning the nervous breakdown that eventually disabled him for life, fled to the pub and reappeared halfway through the soirée with an archetypal barfly. They were seriously drunk. The barfly lurched around the room shouting, swearing and insulting people.

This is not going to be a burb-bashing from some Post-Modern poseur with a minimalist loft for a home and a Feng Shui money plant for a family. I love the suburbs. I love lawns and order. I love school runs, the morning birdsong and the whiff of barbecue smoke drifting over the rampant rose trellises on Saturday evenings in the summer.

Nobody reacted. The chit-chat continued. It was surreal. Buñuel-esque. Even when he started throwing furniture, none of the husbands — doctors, lawyers, rugby club members, school governors and other community pillars

ly, suburban life is like an endless Victorian diplomatic dinner at which all hot topics are off limits, so you can't talk about money or politics. You have to pretend you don't know that your neighbour's husband has just liquidated his company for the fourth time. You have to devise gambits in conversations that start like this: (daughter, aged 12): "Daddy, what is a feminist?" (father, MA Hons, Cambridge): "Well, dear, a feminist is a woman who hates men."

## Anyone with a problem is screened out; there are no Good Samaritans

intervened to escort the barfly to the door and their incapable host to bed. All those good people pretended nothing was happening, said their goodnights and left their hostess alone with four small children and two violent drunks.

Art is another no-no. You can't reappraise *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* with an international banker whose cultural life consists of sleeping through in-flight movies. And a woman can't say anything to a man anyway without his wife swooping down like a vulture to sink her talons into his carcass.

mate taboo. The only creatures who enjoy sex out here are the hamsters. Sex in a suburb is nothing to do with fun, love or even raising rugrats — it is about power and status — women's power and status. A suburb is governed by women, women whose careers are on hold, whose breaths have turned to freshly squeezed orange juice and whose husbands are never home. The male presence in the suburban family is merely financial. From the moment we entered the mother and toddler group I realised with surprise that most of my married neighbours felt just as lonely and abandoned as I did as a single mother. Their husbands worked absurdly hard — 14-hour days were common. They commuted ridiculous distances; one husband drove to Birmingham and back every day, another flew to New York twice a week. "Married sex," said one wife bitterly, "it doesn't really count, does it?"

With their men's significance reduced to a monthly credit transfer, the recession led these women to adopt tactics worthy of *The Lysistrata* — downsized husbands

were simply kicked out of the marital bed. "Well, he's no use to me if he's not earning," was the rationale. Suburbs are not about healthy families any more. Suburban culture plus corporate greed equals the worst threat to English family life since Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon. I agree with the British Telecom commercials — why not change the way we work?

How did we get to this half-timbered hell? The road was paved with good intentions. People have been devising the ideal living environment since the dawn of civilisation. Plato proposed a city governed by reason, justice and courage, and civilised through music and sport. Chiswick began with Platonic ideals added to the visions of John Ruskin and William Morris — the village dream again. Its heartland, Bedford Park, was the first garden suburb, built from 1877 as a complete community with schools, church, theatre, art college, shops, pub, tennis courts, livery stable, "vigilant committee" and a social club offering lectures on scientific

Docklands, dubbed "the most exciting and vibrant urban regeneration project in Europe", is a magnet for foreign investors, who rent small flats to singletons who have to drive miles to satisfy most of their human needs. No wonder Bedford Park looks so desirable. When I began writing my novel last year 300 people were moving out of London every day; the exodus is now happening three times as fast. This madness has to stop because we are running out of space. Every year for the past decade new suburbs have been built on greenfield sites over an area the size of Bristol. Our leafy dream is becoming an environmental disaster. The challenge the House of Commons Select Committee on Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs faces is not only to plan with the wisdom of Plato, but to change the national character so that we can actually bear to live with each other. But I don't think they will change Chiswick. It has become a Shangri-la, cut off from the real world by mountains of money.

When I lived in Chiswick I loved baking cakes for school fetes and chatting with my neighbours over the organic vegetable racks in Sainsbury's. I thought of these things as the sacraments of our neighbourhood, the outward and visible signs of our inward and spiritual community. But after a few years I

Rule No 1 in a suburb is: "Never get involved." It was the same when people's marriages were in trouble, when they were burgled, when their children were bullied and when I was persecuted by a stalker. The neighbours simply screened out anyone with a problem. There are no good

People in suburbs have only one point of contact — their kids go to the same school. They have nothing else in common except their obsession with privacy. Intellectual-

Sex, of course, is the ulti-

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# There is an alternative: let's test it

## David Weatherall wants doctors to learn from complementary healers

In recent years there has been a remarkable change in the attitude of patients to conventional medical practice. A survey in 1990 revealed that Americans made more than 425 million visits to complementary therapists, compared with 388 million to primary-care physicians. In Great Britain there are now some 30,000 exponents of complementary medicine, offering more than 60 different treatments, ranging from osteopathy through aromatherapy to transpersonal psychology.

Since patients are voting with their feet, the medical profession cannot continue to ignore these unconventional approaches to their care but should, instead, examine why they are so successful. For this reason, the establishment of the Foundation for Integrated Medicine, the Prince of Wales's initiative to develop a programme for the study of complementary medicine, should be welcomed. It is due to hold its first scientific conference today.

The origins of the present disillusionment with traditional Western medicine can, paradoxically, be traced to some of its extraordinary successes earlier this century. In the period after the Second World War, when the development of new vaccines and the discovery of antibiotics led to the control of many infectious diseases, it appeared that medicine was capable of almost anything. The virtual disappearance overnight of smallpox, diphtheria and polio prompted the expectation that equally spectacular progress would continue. But the diseases that took their place—heart attacks, strokes, cancer and rheumatism—were much more intractable.

Our relative lack of success in controlling our current ills is not surprising. Unlike infectious diseases they do not have a single cause, but result from the interaction of our genes with the complex environments that we have created, and the ill-understood physiological changes of ageing. As a result, they are never likely to be controlled by single therapeutic "magic bullets".

So although remarkable progress has been made in their symptomatic control, their definitive control and treatment has been less successful. Even the remarkable developments in molecular sciences of recent years, which are revealing so much about the causes of diseases such as cancer, have yet to make a major clinical impact. Since more than 70 years elapsed between the discovery of the organisms that cause infection and their control with vaccines and antibiotics, this delay in the application of advances in basic medical science should not surprise us.

These shortcomings are not the only reason that patients are seeking complementary practitioners. The increasing demands on conventional medicine—reflecting the ageing population and the growing insistence on improved efficiency—and the chronic government underfunding of

healthcare mean that doctors have less and less time to talk to patients. Good pastoral care is now at a premium. Earlier medical successes have prompted us to expect to be in a constant state of rude health. There is also a growing mistrust of the kind of science that underpins traditional medical practice. Since religion does not seem to provide the kind of support that we need, there is an increasing movement towards those who purport to have the answers; even the fate of England's World Cup squad appears to rest in the hands of a faith-healer.

It is far from clear, however, whether the growing popularity of complementary medicine reflects the time that its practitioners are able to spend with patients or the varied forms of therapy that they offer. Very little is known about the efficacy of their treatments, and even less about their safety.

Conventional Western medicine, when it is successful, is always based on good scientific principles. Its approaches to diagnosis and treatment are the fruits of hypotheses, small-scale studies, and the application of carefully controlled clinical trials, often involving large numbers of patients, backed up by careful statistical analysis. In many cases this is the only way to find out for certain whether particular forms of treatment are effective. One of the first lessons to be learnt

was the importance of the "placebo effect". Complementary medicine must undergo the same rigorous examination. A great deal of ingenuity may be required to design meaningful clinical trials, because of the rituals involved in some treatments, but this is the only way to determine whether the diverse therapies of complementary medicine are safe and of genuine value. We also need to find out more about why people choose to visit complementary practitioners and to what extent it reflects the additional time, understanding and sympathy they are able to offer.

The time has clearly come to evaluate the activities of complementary medicine by methods based on solid scientific principles; its practitioners have everything to gain by exposing their treatments to rigorous evaluation in this way. Given the parlous financial state of the National Health Service, this information is badly needed if resources are to be distributed sensibly; none of the richer countries in the West has learnt how to cope with the rising costs of healthcare for their ageing societies.

Conventional medicine must join forces with complementary practice to evaluate their different approaches to patient care in an objective and unemotional way. The creation of the new foundation is a promising start.

Sir David Weatherall is Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford.

### Doctors have less and less time to talk to patients



# The Hurd instinct

## In his mandarin view of politics the public is Adam and Eve, tempted by the media

Many political memoirs are boring, so unbearably so. Sometimes a politician writes a further volume of memoirs, later in retirement, with less detail and self-justification but more imagination and reflection. That almost always makes the more interesting book. The need is for the retired politician to convey what office was like, rather than repeating old arguments which have lost their immediate interest but have not become history in the writer's mind.

Douglas Hurd has tried to short-circuit this process by making the first book of his retirement a novel, *The Shape of Ice*. It is published by Little-Brown at £15.99. As a novel it will make admirable reading for a Tuscan holiday. Guests will then leave it behind in their friends' houses; in ten years' time a curious new generation of English visitors will take it out to the pool to read in that period which comes after the siesta and before the first evening drinks. They will enjoy it. It has been widely reviewed and I have little to add to what the reviewers have said about its literary character. I finished it inside 24 hours, at two sittings. Like most of the reviewers, I found the scenes with red boxes more convincing and more interesting than the bedroom scenes.

A theme runs through the book. It is not the theme of the title, which is taken from Thomas Hardy's *The Convergence of the Twain*, a poem about the loss of the *Titanic*. Hardy is concerned with destiny: "Till the Spinner of the Years said 'Now!' Douglas Hurd prints the whole poem as an introduction to his book, so one begins reading the novel supposing that it will deal with the collisions of history, the power of fate, and Tolstoyan questions of that sort.

The novel does nothing of the kind. It has a plot, but that is more of a device for writing about government than an unwinding of destiny. The main issues, Ireland, a civil war in Russia, even the succession to the prime ministership, are less than fully resolved. The book's emotional urgency springs from a quite different source. The key quotation is not from Thomas Hardy, but from Robert Walpole: "They now ring the bells, but they will soon ring their hands." Douglas Hurd's Prime Minister, who seems to have a good deal both of Douglas Hurd and of Stanley Baldwin in him, quotes Walpole in

his big speech to the House of Commons, which is, rather implausibly, brimming with enthusiasm for war with Russia.

The fictitious Prime Minister continues: "Madam Speaker, I have felt like Sir Robert Walpole in these last days. We are not sent here to impose our solutions on the troubles of the world. We are not elected ministers of universal justice... those of us who propose compromises are shabby, unexciting creatures compared with those who ride on a white horse and promise drama and victory... we owe this House, we owe our constituents our judgment, a judgment that must look further than tomorrow's headlines... the Queen's ministers are not here to craft and polish shiny reputations for themselves. We are here to carry on her government, energetically but soberly."

This was indeed the creed by which Douglas Hurd conducted himself when he was a minister. He was trained in the Foreign Office, and he retains a strong sympathy with the Civil Service point of view. His genuine sense of detachment served him well as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, where it helped him to be fair in his relationship with both communities. It also served him well in the Home Office; those of us who were involved with his work on broadcasting were impressed by his impartiality. Perhaps it served him less well when he came to the Foreign Office itself. His novel seeks to rebut the criticism of his non-interventionist policy over Bosnia. There is, however, no doubt that his political career, which took him to two of the highest offices of state, was both honourable and constructive.

Yet one wonders whether this approach to government is adequate, or even acceptable. Douglas Hurd writes of two other characters, a Chancellor rather like Margaret Thatcher and a Home Secretary rather like Kenneth Clarke. They are both allowed a public impact, a political forcefulness, which he does not claim for the character he has

drawn from himself. Yet this is not just a question of temperament. The question is whether his mandarin philosophy of politics, though it has many classic precedents, is really the right way to govern.

It is certainly hierarchical. At the top there are responsible ministers, resembling Plato's Guardians, who form a detached but benign view of the long-term interest of the State. They are advised and supported by civil servants of an even more priestly character; these are the loyal servants to their political masters, but they also owe a higher loyalty to pure reason. The people are seen as so many children; indeed the only member of the Prime Minister's family who shares the public enthusiasm for bombing Moscow is shown as a rebellious teenage daughter. The public needs to be protected from itself, to be cared for, if necessary against its wishes, by the superior understanding of the civil servants and ministers.

The enemy is the press. One of the few points at which I disagreed with Douglas Hurd's description of the way government actually works was in his account of the relationship between politicians and journalists. He describes this relationship as uniformly manipulative on both sides, though he seems to have a soft spot for my colleague Peter Riddell, whose column he parodies. My own experience of this relationship is that it varies quite widely; usually it is purely professional, sometimes it is antagonistic, sometimes it develops into genuine and lasting friendship. Some politicians and some journalists can be trusted; others not. Some have a rapport with each other; others not.

Douglas Hurd's distrust of journalists, and of their properties, is part of his broader hostility to the media. He sees the media as intruding on private life, but worse than that, as intruding on the private business of government. The chief sin of the media is to whip up public opinion so that a childlike public will insist that politicians follow popular

policies against their better judgment. This is the Book of Genesis view of politics; the Cabinet is a sort of collective deity; the civil servants are the angels and archangels; the public consists of Adam and Eve and the media is the serpent who tempts their innocence. Without the press the public would not have eaten of the tree of knowledge, and would do what they were told by a benevolent higher authority.

One can see the influence of this on the construction of Europe. The constitution of the European Union is indeed non-democratic; it is designed to maximise the power of unelected bureaucrats and judges, to defend politicians against popular pressures, to maintain the secrecy of the decision-making process, and, when thought necessary, to overrule public opinion, as German public opinion on the mark has been overruled. Douglas Hurd has, all his political life, been a "good house".

His theme makes Douglas Hurd's novel a more important book than most political memoirs. Perhaps it helps to explain the progressive alienation of the Major administration from public opinion which led to its disastrous defeat last May. It certainly helps to explain the alienation of the media. It unavoidably raises the cultural issue about Europe— is Europe to be an open society or a bureaucratic one? It raises the reciprocal character of trust: why should the people trust the government, if the government does not trust them?

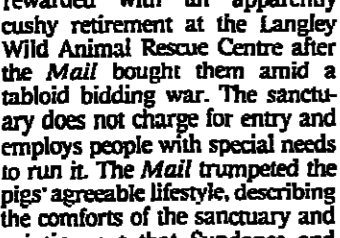
Perhaps most interesting is the question of whether Tony Blair's Government is different in this respect from John Major's. Certainly they consult opinion research very avidly. Yet new Labour's insistence that every Labour Member of Parliament should be "on message", and the importance given to the spin-doctors, suggest that they, too, may distrust the public and dislike the media; they may see the media as a dangerous, because uncontrollable, influence on public opinion.

Douglas Hurd is a high-minded statesman. On the evidence of his novel he gives only two cheers for democracy. It is noteworthy that Margaret Thatcher, who was much more authoritarian with colleagues and civil servants, had a much stronger faith in the soundness of the judgment of the British people.

## William Rees-Mogg

# Pork snatching

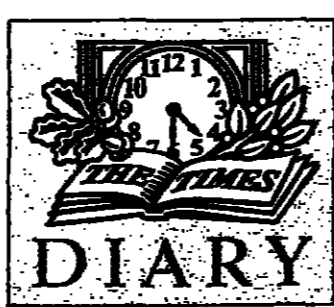
LORD ROTHERMERE has pinnaged the Tamworth Two, Sundance and Butch, the pigs who spent seven nights on the run after escaping from a Wiltshire abattoir—inspiring a frenzied media search—were placed in a local animal sanctuary by the *Daily Mail*. But, despite guarantees that the creatures would remain put, they have now been moved to a farm in Kent with which Rothermere, the newspaper's proprietor, is closely associated. The pigs, lauded as the greatest escapees since Colditz, were rewarded with an apparently cushy retirement at the Langley Wild Animal Rescue Centre after the *Mail* bought them amid a tabloid bidding war. The sanctuary does not charge for entry and employs people with special needs to run it. The *Mail* trumpeted the pigs' agreeable lifestyle, describing the comforts of the sanctuary and pointing out that Sundance and Butch were putting on weight.



"I had to keep them under lock and key," says Kevin Stinchcombe, who runs the rescue centre. "We were inundated, they have become an enormous crowd-puller." Three weeks ago, however, the *Mail* arranged for the pigs to be moved to Badzel Park Farm, near Tonbridge, Kent. The rescue centre was told the move would be temporary. But the farm is to issue notices claiming the pigs as permanent attractions. It charges £4.50 a visit, which raises cash for the Wildside Trust, of which Rother-

mere is its major fundraiser. "The pigs belong to the *Mail*," says Vyvan Harmsworth, Rothermere's cousin. "They were found a home with Mr Stinchcombe on a logging basis. In no way were the pigs given to him."

● SUNDAY'S service in memory of Mother Teresa at Westminster Central Hall will see Ann Widdecombe seated next to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary—the man who, according to gossip, she will shadow after the next reshuffle. May Teresa be blessing her



hopes for above? "I don't know, but I might pray to St Jude, the patron saint of lost causes," Ms Widdecombe tells me.

## Dinner date

"EX-Chancellor for hire. Proven entertainer will consider all offers for speeches at rugby club dinners and supermarket openings. Edith Piaf impression a speciality." Such is the kind of CV that Norman Lamont might soon be touting. He has been signed up by a major West End celebrity agency to maximise his earning potential.

Food for Sport, purveyors of speakers for sporting dinners and corporate blow-outs, boasts such heavy hitters as Jimmy Greaves, Vinnie Jones, Frank Bruno, Kenny Ball, Paul Daniels and the Gladstones. "There is a big market for en-

tertaining speakers who are famous," says Stanley Jackson, the managing director. "We arrange for them to do voiceovers, award ceremonies and make personal appearances, as well as after-dinner speeches." He is convinced that Lamont has the comic genius to become a cabaret turn. A night with Norman will cost £4,000, although for £35,000 companies can retain his services for a whole week. No boxing dinner would be complete without the man who sustained a shiner outside a ladies' residence in curious circumstances. Advertising might now appeal to the ex-MP, which it did not when he forced a Visa ad off air; the commercial featured Lord Healey



mocking Lamont outside Threshers'. A possible opening number? Je ne regrette rien.

● FIRST Keith Richard injured himself reaching for a book in his library. Now for conclusive proof that the *Rolling Stones* should give up the pretence that they are still rock stars. The group's singer, Mick Jagger (pictured), has not requested dancing girls, peculiar pills or outside limousines for the *Stones'* forthcoming Russian tour. Instead, he has rather confused the Moscow authorities by demanding the use of a full-sized snooker table before they perform. "We were very ashamed because we didn't know anything about snooker. The *Stones* explicitly stated that they wanted a table for snooker and not for pool which is an American game. They are clearly great patriots."

## Rebel cause

AND now for America's contribution to the peace. Steven Spielberg's next film threatens to be as constructive as an Ian Paisley majority in the new assembly. After falling in love with the green Isle during the shooting of *Saving Private Ryan*, the director wants to return to make a film of the 1798 Irish rebellion against the



British, in which about 150,000 locals lost their lives.

● THE perils of the stage. Tracy Ann Oberman (pictured), who is stirring Chichester audiences in Saturday, Sunday, Monday, has received a barbed bouquet. An admirer sent her flowers. "There were a couple of red hot poker sticks out, and one caught me in the eye, she says. "I had to go on with a big patch, avoiding the furniture."

JASPER GERARD

# The Sean Connery question

## Why shouldn't expat Scots give cash, asks

### Magnus Linklater

I intend to talk about Sean Connery. Donald Trump and I possibly even Bill Gates when I give evidence to the Neill committee next week. I am sure they will appreciate the injection of a little glamour and gossip after weeks of trawling through the arcane details of party political funding in Britain. It will all, I hasten to add, be in the higher interests of the State.

It was after the embarrassing affair last November of Bernie Ecclestone and his £1.5 million donation to the Labour Party that the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life was asked to look at how political parties in Britain are funded and on what they spend their money. Since then Lord Neill of Bladen and his team have been reaching deep into our political system and coming up with evidence of a complexity to make the head reel. Next week they come to Scotland, where they will find not only that they are dealing with a whole new constitutional set-up, but that they are in the eye of a political storm. The funding issue has become part of a pre-election battle.

It began with the identity of a mystery donor, a Scot living abroad, who had donated between £80,000 and £100,000 to the Scottish National Party. Initially, the SNP refused to disclose to Lord Neill the identity of this person, until embarrassed officials realised that they might be open to precisely the charges of secrecy and sleaze that they had once hurled at Labour. Then they disclosed what everybody had guessed, that it was Sean Connery, famous tax exile and Scottish patriot. Nothing wrong with that—the actor has never made any secret of his politics, and there is currently no constraint on any individual at home or abroad supporting the party he loves.

That, however, is set to change. The Government has announced that it intends to ban "foreign donations"; the Neill committee is looking at what that means. On the surface it would appear to bar Mr Connery from giving funds to the SNP. In fact, it would do no such thing. He may live in Marbella, but he holds a British passport and the funds almost certainly came from a British-based bank. Anyway, says the SNP, why should the other parties, all of whom have UK headquarters, be allowed to channel money to Scotland from London, while the nationalists are prevented from soliciting support from enthusiastic Scots living abroad?

What, for instance, if Donald Trump, whose mother comes from the Island of Lewis, decided that independence was the best bet for Scotland? Or if Bill Gates, whose mother was also Scottish, thought that saving the Union was vital for the future of Microsoft, and started channelling funds into the coffers of the Labour Party? Neither has shown any such inclination, but you never know. One test might be the holding of a British passport, which would exclude another millionaire, David Rockefeller, whose great-grandmother was Scottish. On the other hand, it would be restricted even more, to those with voting rights in Britain—that would still include Mr Connery but exclude Mrs Trump.

What, then, about fund-raising abroad? There is now a Tartan Day in the United States, which could be used to gather donations to Scottish parties rather than St Patrick's Day raises dollars for Sinn Féin or the SDLP. Anyone giving more than £5,000, the current suggested limit for anonymous donations, would have to declare themselves, but there would presumably be no need to disclose this collective source of foreign funds, unless there was an outright ban.

More important is the issue of companies. Mr Ecclestone did not make his donation purely for his own benefit, but in the interests of his worldwide Formula One organisation. The proposed government ban is aimed as much at foreign-based companies as at individuals. So all those subsidiaries of Hyundai, Chungwa, Nissan or Hewlett Packard, based in Britain but with headquarters abroad, would be excluded from the British political process. Is this entirely fair? Why should General Accident, which has moved its headquarters out of Scotland, or Scottish Widows, which might do the same if the going gets rough, be allowed to make a donation to party funds, while, for instance, Cadence Design System, a Californian-based company which has reversed the trend and invested in spectacular effect in the Scottish electronics industry, be forbidden?

How much I will be able to help the committee on these taxing matters remains to be seen. Even my esteemed colleague Peter Riddell, who knows far more about them than I do, concluded that the committee was taking on the labours of Hercules. In the end, however, the best approach for Lord Neill is surely to aim for maximum openness and minimum interference. Scottish voters are no different from their English counterparts. They will want to know who is giving what and why, but they will not warm greatly to rules and regulations which limit the rights of an individual, for better or for worse, to put his money where his mouth is.

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FAIR VOTES

Referendums need to be regulated

Today the citizens of Denmark enjoy a right which the Irish have recently exercised but which is, for no very good reason, denied the British voter. The Danes will vote in a referendum on the Amsterdam treaty. The treaty is dismissed by its own architects as merely a technical exercise in tidying up the loose ends left after Maastricht. Those loose ends are, however, tied in such a way as further to constrict the freedoms of independent nations. The Times argued last June that the treaty was a "technical mess" and a "political betrayal of European democracy". It will erode the influence of the national veto and transfer power in a federalising fashion to the European Parliament. The Danes should, in their own interests and those of a Europe, say no.

public opinion. The referendums in Ulster, Scotland and Wales were conducted before the legislation to give effect to voters' wishes had been framed. Pre-legislative referendums are invitations to buy pigs in pokes. Those referendums were conducted without proper guidelines on funding, timing or broadcasts to constrain the executive. Although the results in Scotland and Ulster were clear enough to signal support for change, a close result, as in Wales, can lead to questions about the legitimacy of the vote. As Michael Pinto-Duschinsky pointed out on the opposite page on Tuesday, and as Viscount Cranborne gave warning in the Lords on May 13, the health of our democracy depends on future referendums being conducted in accordance with rules which command broad acceptance. The need for safeguards will be all the more urgent if the nation is called upon to vote in referendums on the electoral system or membership of the euro. The creation of an "independent" committee to investigate alternatives to the voting system which is packed with proponents of change, and the early efforts by Government to massage opinion in favour of the single currency, make vigilance vital. As well as framing rules to guarantee fairness in funding and broadcast access, the adoption of a threshold, as Dr Pinto-Duschinsky suggested, would help entrench the legitimacy of any referendum result. No golf club changes its constitution without a fixed proportion of the entire membership agreeing, so why should the nation? If 40 per cent of the workforce is required to vote before a trade union can demand recognition, then why should a threshold not apply to constitutional changes, which are much more difficult to reverse than employment relations? Voters deserve an answer from the Government on these issues before they can be expected to give their answers in referendums.

COUNTRY GUARDIANS

Whitehall must be more imaginative in protecting rural Britain

The size, strength and impact of the Countryside March through London in March took its organisers by surprise as much as the Government. But they have been quick to exploit the advantage and the publicity. Calling on the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take urgent action to save Britain's countryside, farmers and rural leaders yesterday presented a long list of demands which they say have been ignored too long. The main one is lower interest rates to reduce the high value of the pound, which has hit farm exports and price guarantees particularly hard. But their grievances also include the high cost of rural housing, poor public transport, uncertain job prospects and a host of pettyfoggish regulations that have often militated against new initiatives and limit flexibility. Britain's rural economy still depends largely on farming, and the rise in the pound has certainly been damaging. Not only has it made exports in this intensely competitive field too expensive, but because of the complex operation of the green pound and the link to intervention support, a rise in sterling's value cuts the amount Britain's farmers receive in subsidy. This reduction comes at a time when farmers are still reeling from the economic and psychological shock of "mad cow" disease and when morale has rarely been lower. The recent fat years of farmyard prosperity have only underlined the bitterness at the onset of lean times. If yesterday's call were merely the disgruntled complaints of a powerful lobby, it would merit little attention. Farmers cannot be isolated from the economic cycle any more than miners or steelworkers. Nor can demands for housing relief or other measures that buck the market escape suspicions of featherbedding. Yet there is no

doubt that the health of the countryside is linked to a vibrant agricultural economy. What has hurt the countryside is that this economy has been crudely distorted by the working of the Common Agricultural Policy, with its notorious encouragement of overproduction, the grubbing out of hedgerows and intensive farming methods that ruin the ecology as well as the landscape. A reform of the CAP — and farmers' own addition to it — is a first essential step in restoring balance. But a reform in attitude must go alongside. Farmers, the bedrock of Britain's yeoman stock, are increasingly also de facto guardians of a landscape that shapes us all, town-dwellers and countrymen alike. This role should be recognised and extended. And inasmuch as that needs special support, Whitehall cannot insist that the market alone determine the health of rural Britain. Village schools and rural colleges may be less cost-efficient than those in cities, but they are no less vital in preparing a properly educated workforce. Rural buses and trains may need subsidies, but without them villages wither and die. Bankruptcy hurts any community; but rural foreclosures do lasting and often irreparable damage, and imaginative ways are needed to help farmers through the present hard times. There is also much that can be done that is simple and cheap. A recent pamphlet by the Social Market Foundation details changes in rigid planning and commercial regulation that would encourage village regeneration. Why not encourage small additions to existing villages, relax bans on different commercial activities under one roof or allow private cars to function as village taxis? The Countryside March brought promises of Government concern; now it is time to deliver.

A MATTER OF HONOUR

Decorations are rarely won by those who lobby

One hundred years after the minor battle which made him a hero, Theodore Roosevelt, later 26th US President, may be decorated. A Bill now before the US Congress proposes that he be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honour, the highest gallantry decoration. Its 158 sponsors argue that the original recommendation was blocked for political reasons, as it had to be approved by the same Secretary of War whose incompetence Teddy Roosevelt had so roundly criticised; the centenary of Roosevelt's "crowded hour" is thought to be the appropriate time to recognise the martial endeavours of a President whose political reputation has never been higher. Such an award would have its precedents. Congressional pressure was instrumental in the recent, well-merited honouring of seven Second World War veterans, originally denied the Medal because they were black. The Victoria Cross was awarded to a casualty of the Indian Mutiny 48 years after his death, and to Lieutenant Coghill and Melville nearly three decades after they fell defending the South Wales Borderers' colours at Isandhlwana. Others have lived to receive belated honours. Two reluctant civilians bribed by Winston Churchill to drive a train out of a Boer ambush did not receive their promised decoration until the

General James L. Day finally received the Medal of Honour he had been recommended for in 1945, after colleagues secured the decoration he had been too modest to claim for himself. But Colonel Roosevelt was denied for more than political reasons. His stoking of the publicity surrounding the action in which he fought, and his detailed accounts of his own conduct, were widely seen as lobbying for a decoration he was known to covet. Many felt that in seeing it as a useful political accessory, he was abusing the Medal and its holders. Ultimately he had no need of the Medal: victory itself, the mystique of his Rough Riders and his proven abilities, were enough to secure for him the governorship of New York and, eventually, the White House. Would an award now have any value? Unlike the cases of the black veterans, there is no historical wrong to be set right. Roosevelt was denied as much for his presumption as for any ruffled political feathers; he obtained his reward in popular acclaim and presidential office. But most veterans have no such public affirmation. In every war, countless acts of gallantry go unrecognised. Governments do better to honour modest anonymous heroes such as James L. Day than bolster the reputations of men who sought glory in their own lives and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Yes' to peace — and what else?

From Mr Paul Rowlandson Sir, Now that the euphoria over the "yes" vote is beginning to lessen, perhaps a calmer evaluation of the Mitchell agreement, and the campaign in support of it, can take place. The agreement contains many highly controversial features which have not, in my view, received adequate attention. Prominent among these are the affirmative action implications of the section on "Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity". This promises to eliminate progressively the differential in unemployment rates between the two communities. In other words, it aims to achieve equality of outcome rather than equality of opportunity. Such measures, requiring preferential treatment on the basis of religion, are bound to exacerbate sectarian animosities. One clause commits the assembly to work for the "advancement of women in public life"; another affirms their right to "full and equal political participation". These clauses appear to grant rights to women on the basis of their gender, above any rights they may possess as individuals. Nobody can hold office who refuses to sign the "pledge of office", which commits all office holders "to promote equality". This implies that no elected representative can hold office who is not committed to an egalitarian dogma. These issues were not discussed during the referendum campaign, which was the most imbalanced, one-sided and manipulative political campaign that I, an Englishman living in Ireland for the past 24 years, have ever had the misfortune to witness. All the resources of Government and the media were used in support of the propaganda that a vote against the agreement was a vote against peace. It was about as far from a free and fair election as it is possible to get. The result was politically decisive but morally invalid. Yours sincerely, PAUL ROWLANDSON, 42 Hillview Avenue, Londonderry BT47 2NU. p.rowlandson@ulst.ac.uk May 25.

PoW demonstrations against visit of Japan's Emperor

From Mr Martin Conway Sir, The display put forward by the ex-PoWs was uncalled for. I recognise that they suffered tremendously at the hands of the Japanese, but it has to be remembered that war does terrible things to both nations and people. After nearly fifty years of trying to solve international problems peacefully, do we really need the disrespect not only to a foreign head of state, but also to our own Sovereign, that was displayed on The Mall (reports, May 27)? We do not expect such resentment from countries that have suffered from the actions of our own nation. The actions of some Japanese cannot be used to judge a whole nation, particularly not a child who just happens fifty years later to be the Emperor. Yours sincerely, MARTIN CONWAY, Flat 3, Birch Court, 55 Canning Road, Wealdstone, HA3 7SP. May 27.

Japanese prisoner-of-war camp survivor I have the greatest sympathy with the veterans who protested in The Mall yesterday. But to expect an official apology from Emperor Akihito is asking too much. No two cases are, of course, quite the same; but there exists a parallel in the state visit paid by our own Queen to the Czech Republic in 1996. The connecting link is the Munich agreement of 1938 which was similarly infamous in condemning the Czechoslovak people to Nazi invasion and eventually to occupation. The suffering of the Czechs, of which the extermination of the village of Lidice stands as the symbol, flowed partly from this action of the then British Government. Like the Japanese Emperor the Queen made a speech at a state banquet. A straightforward apology for Munich would have been out of place, since it would have been to gloss over the difficulties we would have had in facing up to Hitler at that point rather than later when we were better prepared. So what Her Majesty said was that she understood and sympathised with the feelings of the Czechs on the subject of Munich. Honour was satisfied and, I believe, a line was drawn under this vexed issue in British-Czech relations. The behaviour of the Japanese cannot be similarly excused, but the Emperor's expression of regret should perhaps be accepted in the same spirit. Yours sincerely, MICHAEL BURTON (Ambassador to the Czech Republic, 1994-97), 6 Napier Court, Ranelagh Gardens, SW6 3UT. May 27.

dividuals in the land without a view on the hottest topic of the day and one which causes deep distress or confusion among thousands of their respective subjects. Isn't life odd? Sincerely, CHRISTOPHER LONG, 48 Vincent Square, SW1P 2NR. calong@dircon.co.uk May 27. From Mr Stanley G. Simpson Sir, What the Emperor of Japan should have said, after his installation as a Knight of the Garter, was "As the Emperor I am unable to apologise as I am bound by the Constitution of Japan; but as a Japanese knight of the noble Order of the Garter I most humbly apologise for the treatment of the prisoners of war of the Japanese, for as a knight I am bound by the code of conduct of the Order." In that way the prisoners of war could feel satisfied, and, to make their day, the Prime Minister, abetted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, could authorise adequate compensation for the survivors. Yours faithfully, S. G. SIMPSON, 11 Seagrave Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 1SU. May 27. From Mr Gerry Hanson Sir, For civilised people, the flag of a nation with whom we are not now at war should be sacrosanct. It deserves our respect, even if past actions of that nation do not. On Tuesday in The Mall, an understandable and otherwise acceptable demonstration of feelings was robbed of its dignity and worth by the burning of the Japanese flag. Yours truly, GERRY HANSON, Pottery Lodge, 74a Slough Road, Iwer Heath, Buckinghamshire SL0 0DY. May 27.

Education spending

From Mr John Beattie Sir, In his article on the Government's attempt to reallocate public spending ("No chance, Prime Minister", May 18), Peter Riddell is right to identify education action zones (the groups of 25 or so schools which are to be given extra government support in return for offering themselves as an experiment in educational improvement) as an example of innovative thinking. He is certainly misguided, however, to imply that they can only succeed by "challenging the local council/union monopoly". If education action zones are to bring lasting improvement, they will have to be grounded in the community, draw on local government's detailed knowledge of its area and engage the expertise and commitment of the teaching profession. Only bidders themselves committed to such equal partnerships should be considered. Quick-fix merchants imported from the US and our own private sector will produce superficial short-term solutions which will not survive the three to five years of their contracts. Not only will there be a surfeit of management and bureaucracy, but much-needed public funds will be translated into financial rewards to shareholders rather than permanent educational gains for the community. Yours faithfully, JOHN BEATTIE (Senior Vice-President, Association of Teachers and Lecturers), flex, Clyst St Mary, Exeter EX5 1BB. May 19.

Future of Arts Council

From the Chairman of the Arts Council of England Sir, Recent days have seen much misrepresentation relating to the future role of the governing body (the council) of the Arts Council and its links with its advisory bodies (letters, May 21, 23). I have today written to all Arts Council panel members serving when I took up my appointment. My letter states that the position remains as follows. The governing body will in future number about ten and those ten will not directly represent particular interests, reflecting widespread recognition that a slimmer and more effective governing body is needed. It will, however, include figures of stature in the arts world. The chairman and chief executive of

the Arts Council will meet each panel annually and will meet each panel chairman with the appropriate art form director several times each year to air matters relating to that art form and to ensure that their specialist advice is properly understood. Panel chairmen will also have the opportunity to attend and take part in council discussions of substantive matters of particular relevance to their art-form. Direct access to the governing body will be at whatever regularity is necessary to ensure good and well informed governance. Needless to say, the above arrangements will apply to all art forms, not just drama. Yours sincerely, GERRY ROBINSON, Chairman, Arts Council of England, 14 Great Peter Street, SW1P 3NQ. May 27.

Dressing down

From Mr Edward Mendelsohn Sir, Rodney Milnes ("Rehearsal format misses the plot", Arts, May 23) sums up Glyndebourne's new *Costume Party* production — a rehearsal room, white working lights and jeans — as "an awfully lazy enterprise". Cost may conventionally be seen as a benign and charming theatrical charade illuminating life's darker realities. Other approaches, stripped of visual charm and make-believe and therefore regarded as more "honest", may be equally valid. Whichever way, in the end it is the quality of the experience that counts. I do however resent Glyndebourne's instructions, sent out with my tickets, that "evening dress (black tie/long or short dress) is customary". Why is its artistic policy open to change and experiment while its dress code is not? In the spirit of this production and in order not to be made to feel foolish, I shall also wear "honest" clothes appropriate to the occasion. I suggest that others attending this production should do likewise. Yours faithfully, EDWARD MENDELSON, 40 Waterford House, 110 Kensington Park Road, W11 2PJ. May 25.

Book prices

From Mr Terry Maher Sir, I am surprised that William Rees-Mogg has fallen for the old line that the problems which face publishers are everybody's fault but their own ("A tale of tightly squeezed margins", May 18). The fact is that general trade book publishers have concentrated far too much of their resources on unrealistically high advances to "bestselling" authors and have neglected the less fashionable areas of production and distribution. The result is that books are poorly produced and prices are too high; and it takes far too long to get books into bookshops. The massive advances in printing technology in the past two decades should have brought book prices down — newspaper publishers know a little about this. And book wholesalers — who can deliver a book to a bookshop overnight rather than the seven to ten days typical for a publisher — have demonstrated the value of investment in modern and efficient computer-based delivery systems. The Internet will have no more than a marginal impact on trade publishing houses. If they are to improve their profitability they will need to bring the poor relations of production and distribution in from the cold. Yours sincerely, TERRY MAHER (Chairman, Maher Booksellers Ltd), 33 Clarence Terrace, Regents Park, NW1 4RD. May 19.

RAC merger

From the Chief Executive Officer of The Royal Automobile Club Sir, In her letter (May 16), Sheila McKechnie, Director of the Consumers' Association, expresses concern that the proposed purchase of RAC Motoring Services by Cendant, who also own Green Flag, could have a detrimental effect on consumers by further reducing competition. Your Business report on the same day of the entry into the roadside assistance market of a substantial new player, Direct Line Rescue, shows how wide of the mark the Consumers' Association is. Contrary to Sheila McKechnie's assertion that entry to this market is difficult, Direct Line's move shows that it is relatively easy to set up a contractor-based breakdown service. Indeed, there are now already at least six breakdown services to choose from; prices start at low levels (eg, RAC cover from £39 per annum) and consumers have considerable choice of services available. The proposed acquisition of RAC Motoring Services by Cendant will further improve that choice by providing greater competition with the AA — significantly the biggest player in the market — and by widening the range of services available, such as providing car parking and travel discounts. Yours faithfully, NEIL A. JOHNSON, Chief Executive Officer, The Royal Automobile Club, 89-91 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HS. May 18.

Bankside art

From Mr Fletcher Robinson Sir, Presumably City workers are part of the community which Mr Lars Nitve, Director of the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, would like to involve in his plans (interview, "Can Lars make sparks fly?", Arts, May 20). I am a stockbroker and also, like many others in the City, a friend of the Tate and a passionate art-lover, in my case mainly of European paintings and drawings. I am concerned that the gallery appears to be planning to show "Turner Prize" art, to the exclusion of everything else. That would be like having to subsist on a diet of caviare, or alternatively rice-water, depending on one's taste in these matters. Yours faithfully, FLETCHER ROBINSON, 66 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0EA. May 20.

Broken dreams

From Dr Colin Crosby Sir, There are intimations of mortality even in the active elderly (letter from Mr C. J. Vickers, May 26). I have been looking after the same team of — now veteran — rugby players for over 20 years. Whilst my services used to be required exclusively for torn muscles and snapped tendons, I am now dealing with bronchitis, arthritic joints and even cardiac rehabilitation. Yours faithfully, COLIN CROSBY (Medical Director), Department of Exercise and Sports Medicine, The Garden Hospital, 46/50 Sunny Gardens Road, London NW4 1RX. May 27.

Vitamin B6 dosage

From Mr Harry Ganz Sir, I totally agree with your leading article, "A B6 a day" (May 15), criticising the decision of the Food Safety Minister, Jeff Rooker, to restrict the "free" sale of vitamin B6 to tablets under 10mg. Vitamin B6 has a definite role in today's stressful society and has a proven safety record. However, I would like to point out that vitamin B6, in dosages of up to 50mg, will still be available in pharmacies, where a pharmacist will always be available to give advice if required. Yours faithfully, HARRY GANZ, The Garden Pharmacy, 119 Long Acre, WC2E 9PA. sales@garden.co.uk

The cult of sport

From Mr J. R. Clegg Sir, When my mother relieved me of my pocket money teaching me to play pool and poker, she said the man who kicks a ball about in unsuitable clothing in cold, wet weather is daft. The man who watches is even dafter, and if you pay to watch you want your head reeled. Mind you, if you get paid for doing it, that's OK. On that note may I join Matthew Parris ("Don't make sport of us", May 15; letters, May 20 and 25) in a darkened room, in some luxury hotel, for the duration of the World Cup finals? Yours faithfully, J. R. CLEGG, Arrendal, 103 Wimmerfield Avenue, Killay, Swansea SA2 7DA. May 25.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number

Yours faithfully, J. BERRY, 44 Ramshaw Drive, Chelmer Village, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6UB. May 27.





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OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ERNLE POPE

Vice-Admiral Sir Ernle Pope, KCB, Commander Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, 1974-76, died on May 21 aged 76. He was born on May 22, 1921.

While serving as a young lieutenant in the destroyer Lively, Ernle Pope suffered the rare distinction of being sunk twice in one day. In May 1942 the turning point of the hard-fought Mediterranean campaign was still a year away and the Royal Navy's grim determination not to lose Malta — and to interdict supplies for the Axis armies in North Africa — was leading to many losses. Intelligence of a convoy bound for Benghazi prompted sorties by the destroyers Jervis, Jackal, Kipling and Lively from Alexandria.



Vice-Admiral Sir Ernle Pope, as president, at the Royal Naval Association's service of remembrance in 1985

On May 11 these ships were attacked by German bombers from the expert Fliegerkorps II, sinking the Lively. At sunset, a heavy attack by another squadron sank the Kipling, which had rescued many survivors from Lively, as well as badly damaging the Jackal. Next morning, Jackal had to be abandoned and sunk by a torpedo from Jervis, which retired carrying the 650 survivors.

Before this disaster, Lively had been living up to her name. Arriving in the Mediterranean in October 1941 and forming the celebrated Force K with her sister, Lance, and the cruisers Penelope and Aurora, she was based mainly in Malta, escorting five Malta convoys and conducting forays against Axis shipping. One night in November, Force K, using Enigma-decoded intelligence, intercepted a convoy going from Naples to Tripoli, and by clever tactical use of radar managed to sink all seven of the transports and the Italian destroyer Fulmine. Pope, as "third hand" of Lively, was mentioned in dispatches for his gallantry, skill and resolution in this action.

After his sinkings, Pope was appointed second-in-command of the destroyer Brilliant, escorting convoys to Oran in support of the American invasion of North Africa, before being sent home in 1943 to specialise in communications. As flotilla communications officer, he served with the British Pacific Fleet against the Japanese in the destroyer flotilla leaders Quilliam and Grenville, and was again mentioned in dispatches for his distinguished service in the Far East.

The son of a naval officer, John Ernle Pope entered the Royal Navy at Dartmouth in 1935 and was a midshipman in the cruiser Cornwall on the

China station at the outbreak of war. In the Indian Ocean, Cornwall took part in the hemisphere-wide operations to find the pocket battleship Graf Spee, as well as operations with the Free French at Dakar in September 1940. Pope then returned to England for a sub-lieutenant's training course.

After the war, he spent two years on exchange with the Australian Navy, based with his wife and children in Sydney but with much time at sea. Promoted to commander in 1954, he then served in the signals division of the Admiralty.

two successful tours, first as the second-in-command of the boys' training establishment HMS St Vincent at Portsmouth and then as second-in-command of the carrier Centaur. Promoted to captain, he was appointed assistant chief of staff for communications to the Nato Commander-in-Chief Northern Europe, based near Oslo. This was followed by command of the destroyer Decoy and, from 1966, command of one of the Navy's two largest aircraft carriers, the Eagle.

Operating at first in the Far East, Eagle was a notably efficient ship, which, under Pope's command, played a part in the realignment of British defence policy from East of Suez to the North Atlantic. In 1968 the largest maritime exercise yet staged, Silver Tower, illustrated the new strategy, with Eagle as a useful part of the American-dominated Strike Fleet.

Pope was promoted to rear-admiral in 1969 and appointed Flag Officer Western Fleet Flotillas. This was a seagoing appointment with responsibility for the operational efficiency, morale and career prospects of the Western Fleet destroyer and frigate force. Pope's formidable personality inspired considerable awe; it was prudent to be very much on the alert with everything shipshape when steaming in the same waters as the flotilla admiral.

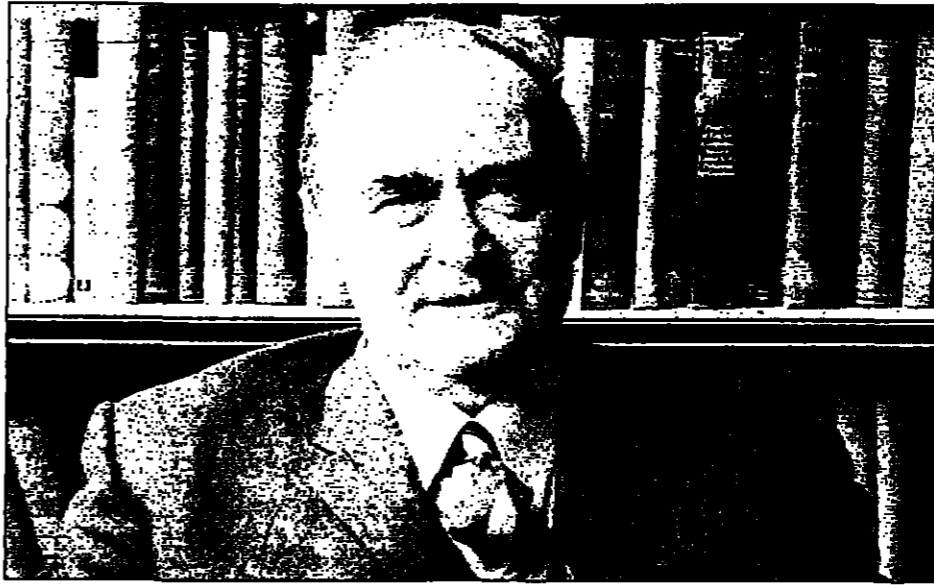
His reputation as a severe but humane disciplinarian followed him to his next post as chief of staff to the Commander-in-Chief Western Fleet, based at Northwood in Middlesex. This was a time of transition and budgetary decline which meant evolving new methods for countering an increasingly capable Soviet naval threat and ways to maintain Nato's maritime cohesion and credibility.

Pope's final tour, as vice-admiral, was to be at Naples as the Commander, Allied Naval Forces, Southern Europe. He was appointed KCB on retirement in 1976.

In retirement he devoted many years to the running of the Royal Naval Association, the nationwide club for retired naval people of all ranks. He was also a leading figure in the Historic Churches Trust for Hertfordshire and in welfare programmes for the disadvantaged in Malvern.

He married Pam Davies in 1945, but that marriage was later dissolved. He is survived by his second wife, Bunny, and the five sons of his first marriage.

JOHN ROSKELL



Roskell: believed medieval Parliaments had been underestimated

John Roskell, FBA, historian, died on May 1 aged 84. He was born on July 2, 1913.

THE culmination of John Roskell's life's work came in 1992 with the publication of the four volumes for 1386-1422 of the national History of Parliament project.

His studies over more than 50 years had had a singular consistency of theme and purpose. He believed that the body politic of later medieval England was both broad and mature. Specifically, he argued that the independence and maturity that other historians found in the Commons, as an integral part of Parliament, in the 16th and 17th centuries had already developed by the end of the medieval period, and that the House faced much the same degree of limitation throughout.

He stressed that those who sat in the Commons — most notably the shire representatives — were the cream of the county communities, men experienced both in and out of Parliament, eager in their work, and by no means just the tools of local magnates or royal masters. Parliament, he urged, was a forum where such men could and did express the opinion of the realm, rather than merely responding to the dictates of kings and lords. In his book on

the origins of the office of Speaker, he showed how the Commons found a means to give freer expression to its opinions.

John Smith Roskell was educated at Accrington Grammar School and Manchester University. From 1935 to 1938 he was a postgraduate student at Balliol College, Oxford, where he gained a DPhil for his thesis on *The Commons in the Parliament of 1422* (published 1954). He was then appointed assistant lecturer in history at Manchester University, to which he was to return after war service in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

As a teacher Roskell believed that students should be given an expert training. In his special subject teaching, he devoted himself to the precise study of constitutional texts and the reading of chronicles in extension, but at the same time he believed strongly in survey courses and in the importance of narrative history. He was a man of outstanding integrity, a doughty fighter for the principles in which he believed, and a staunch defender of academic traditions. He was one of the last representatives of an age of teaching and scholarship now remembered only — though often remembered vividly — by senior university historians.

Roskell's career at Manchester was interrupted by a

decade as Professor of Medieval History at Nottingham University, before his return, to a similar post at Manchester in 1962. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1968, and retired in 1978.

Despite his fastidious attention to detail, Roskell published steadily throughout his career. He produced four books and more than 60 articles. A *Festschrift* entitled *The English Parliament in the Middle Ages* was presented to him in 1981.

He was a Lancastrian through-and-through, and devoted to Manchester and the North West. He will be remembered, for example, as president of the Chetham Society and of the Lancashire Parish Register Society, and for his work for Chetham's Library, for St Anselm Hall and for the Manchester University Press. Precision and wry humour were the keynotes in his conversation.

From being an all-round athlete, he chose to concentrate on cricket. As a batsman he was grudgingly defensive, at his happiest against snoring fast bowlers. He was also a nimble fielder, but when he found himself out of breath when running for a bus at 48, he gracefully retired.

He married Evelyn Liddle in 1942. She died in 1989. He is survived by their son and daughter.

JOHN PHILLIPS

John Phillips, CMG, former Ambassador to Sudan, Jordan and South Yemen, died on May 8 aged 80. He was born on December 16, 1917.

FOR his final ambassadorial appointment, the Foreign Office offered John Phillips a choice of congenial posts, as his reward after a long sequence of tough jobs. He rejected them all, however, in favour of a return to Sudan, where he had begun his career three decades earlier. A great nephew of General Gordon and of Colonel Sir Herbert Stewart, killed while trying to relieve him, Phillips saw Khartoum almost as his spiritual home.

"Two members of your family have been killed here," beamed President Nimeiry hospitably on his arrival. "I

hope you will not be the third." But Phillips was well used to the sound of gunfire. While serving in Amman during the short war between King Hussein's troops and Palestinian guerrillas, he had once been cut off in his embassy for ten days by the battle outside.

Before that, he had been in South Yemen when the Marxist Government seized Barclays Bank and held the staff hostage — until Phillips secured their release through the Russian Ambassador. When he took over as Britain's envoy, 25 years ago, Khartoum was a haven of peace by comparison.

John Fleetwood Stewart Phillips was born in Lucknow, India, where several generations of his family had served the Raj. At Brighton College, he became head boy and won an exhibition to Worcester

College, Oxford, to read classics. By that time his father had lost his money, partly on racehorses.

A stocky, powerfully built man, Roskell played rugby for both Sussex and the Greyhounds — Oxford's second XV — and was on course for a Blue when the war broke out. Coming down from Oxford after only two years, he was commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and fought in the Western Desert at Sidi Barrani before moving to Crete.

There he reached what he described as the high point of his military career: by briefly capturing the former world heavyweight boxing champion, Max Schmeling. A paratrooper in the Wehrmacht, Schmeling had broken his ankle on landing in an orchard defended by the Argylls.

But Phillips himself was wounded and captured in the subsequent fighting, and found himself imprisoned in Athens jail. He escaped to spend eight months with the Greek Resistance before trying to sail to Turkey in an open boat. This foundered offshore, and he was recaptured and threatened with a firing squad as a spy. He was saved by the intervention of a German cousin, who luckily was in Greece serving on the other side, and was sent to prison camps in Czechoslovakia and Germany.

He again managed to escape several times, but never got far — once being rounded up by 50 schoolchildren and two bloodhounds. So he resolved to use his time as a prisoner of war to learn Arabic. When liberated by the Americans, he returned to Britain

and was accepted for the Sudan Political Service. Credentials for the service were said to be "a Two and a Blue" and he had neither. But it was agreed that he would have won both but for the war.

As a district commissioner in Northern Sudan, Phillips featured in the national press after expelling a group of protesting missionaries. He had been trying to discourage Nuba tribesmen from carrying out human sacrifices to appease their gods, the shadows cast by their mountains on the desert. By teaching them to worship the Holy Ghost, the missionaries were having the opposite effect.

Phillips transferred to the Diplomatic Service in 1955, but continued to serve in or near the Islamic world. He was consul-general in Muscat from 1960 to 1963, and served as counsellor in Amman, then deputy high commissioner in Cyprus before going to South Yemen in 1969 as Ambassador. He returned to Jordan as Ambassador (1970-72) and finally returned to Sudan (1973-77) before retiring at 60.

A natural Arabist, Phillips was known for his laid-back style. In Oman he was once asked by the Foreign Office to supply a source for the Omani national anthem for a Royal Marines band. It transpired that the only known version had been on a worn gramophone record which the Sultan had inadvertently set on, and that the only other man who could recall it was tone deaf.

Despite his formidable experience and build, John Phillips was a shy man. On leaving Whitehall, he retired to his Sussex garden and his large collection of sea-shells. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their two sons and two daughters.

FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ

Francisco Pena Gomez, Dominican Revolutionary Party leader, died on May 10 aged 61. He was born on March 6, 1937.

A FIREBRAND orator and fierce advocate of racial and political equality, Francisco Pena Gomez was indefatigable in campaigning for public office. Three unsuccessful bids for the presidency, exile, and a life-threatening illness did not deter him from entering the ring again this year, and his death, six days before the election for Mayor of Santo Domingo, came when polls indicated that he was at last sure of victory.

Race was at the heart of Gomez' electoral misfortune. He was of Haitian descent, and his black skin was always a liability in a Caribbean nation ruled by a white elite which never endorsed him.

José Francisco Pena Gomez was born to poor parents in Valverde and orphaned when the military dictator Rafael Trujillo ordered the massacre of 20,000 Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent. The young boy's parents fled across the border, leaving a peasant family to adopt and raise him on a ranch where they worked.

As a child Gomez was industrious and intelligent, but poverty forced him to seek work by the age of eight. In his teens he worked at a grocery store, a cobbler's and in a bar, and later he was apprenticed to a barber. In 1952 he moved

to the capital, Santo Domingo, where he embarked on a career as a radio announcer after completing a broadcasting course.

It was while announcing baseball games that Gomez became active in democratic politics, and in 1961, after the assassination of Trujillo, he joined the social democrat Revolutionary Dominican Party, rising to the position of secretary-general. When the party leader, Juan Bosch, was elected President in 1962, Go-



mez became his protégé. The following year Bosch was ousted in a military coup. An outraged Gomez demanded his reinstatement, inciting the masses via radio and bringing the nation practically to the brink of civil war.

Left-wing forces in the army revolted in response to Gomez' call, and America's President Johnson dispatched 23,000 marines to prevent a revolution. With American support, the conservative former President Joaquin Balaguer was

elected in 1966, forcing Gomez into exile.

Gomez moved to France and studied politics at the University of Paris, then returned home to lead the party in 1973. Passionately concerned about the poor, he led the Revolutionary Party to win two presidential elections in 1978 and 1982. In 1982 he was also elected Mayor of Santo Domingo, a position generally considered the last stepping-stone to the presidency. But his presidential dreams were short-lived. His own party did not back him in 1986, citing his race as a reason.

Four years later, he did win his party's presidential nomination, but he came third in an election rife with fraud. In 1994 he contested the presidency again, and lost once more. He accused his opponent, Balaguer, of stealing the elections, and threatened to paralyse the country by calling a strike. In an attempt to mollify him, Balaguer agreed to serve only half a term, calling elections in 1996. A third time Gomez ran for the presidency and lost, being defeated in a second round run-off.

Stomach cancer was then diagnosed, and Gomez was shuttling between the United States and the Dominican Republic for treatment when he announced in January that he would run for Mayor of Santo Domingo.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Cabral, their two sons and two daughters, and four children from two previous marriages.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BIRTHDAYS

MEMBER BILL, happy birthday! ...

SERVICES

PLUMB PARTNERS National Cleaning ...

WANTED

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WORLD CUP '98 ...

TICKETS FOR SALE

ACCESS TICKETS Specialist in ...

ALL TICKETS!

OFFICIAL WIMBLEDON ...

TICKETS WANTED

(DERENTURES) ...

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LEGAL NOTICES

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FOR SALE

A NEWSPAPER, Original ...

PUBLIC NOTICES

RE: Last Notice ...

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given ...

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INTERNATIONAL Companies ...

UK HOLIDAYS

SPECIAL Offer ...

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Specialist in ...

FLATSHARE

FLATSHARE (See 1998) ...

COURT THEATRE

"THE SHADOW OF A GUNMAN"

By SEAN O'CASEY

Let us put the matter briefly: it was not the play that counted, but the audience, whose behaviour was as criminally unintelligent and as seditious as it could possibly be.

ON THIS DAY

May 28, 1927

Sean O'Casey's *The Shadow of a Gunman* may not have been a particularly good play, but the critic felt that it did not deserve the shrieks and jeers and guffaws of merriment which greeted it when it was performed at the Court Theatre in 1927.

Hutchinson had to say: this coarse, callous laughter exploded continuously, the explosion occurring not seldom a minute or two after the point had passed, and the audience began to feel there was something wrong with their silence.

Yet the play is not in any marked degree a humorous play. That, indeed is its chief weakness: the comedy is tame to an audience who were determined to have their fun. When the poor coward of a poet, who is mistaken for a gunman "on the run" says, for instance, that it is not the gunman who is dying for the people, but the people who are dying for the

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NEWS

PoWs attack Emperor's speech

Former prisoners of war were angered after reports that Emperor Akihito did not express "deep sorrow" about the victims of war in his speech at Buckingham Palace.

Blair confrontation on low pay

The Prime Minister is heading for confrontation with unions after receiving a report from the Low Pay Commission recommending a minimum wage of £3.60.

Arts policy defence

The Lord Chancellor mounted a defence of Government policy on the arts, denouncing critics both who accuse the Government of "dumbing down" and of elitism.

Sour note

Cloning music tracks from the Internet is costing writers and publishers an estimated £40 million a year and posing a major threat to the future of the British music industry.

CPS shake-up

Local American-style district attorneys may take control of crime cases in a shake-up of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Men disciplined

The Israel Broadcasting Authority said it had disciplined four journalists for a report doctored to show the Prime Minister, waving to a crowd chanting "Death to the Arabs".

Gay couple rights

America's leading Roman Catholic cleric has criticised Rudolph Giuliani, New York's mayor, over an impending city law that would extend full legal rights to homosexual couples.

Hidden charge

British Telecom is facing an OfTel investigation into a secret change to directory inquiry billing that could cost callers thousands of pounds a year.

Reading targets

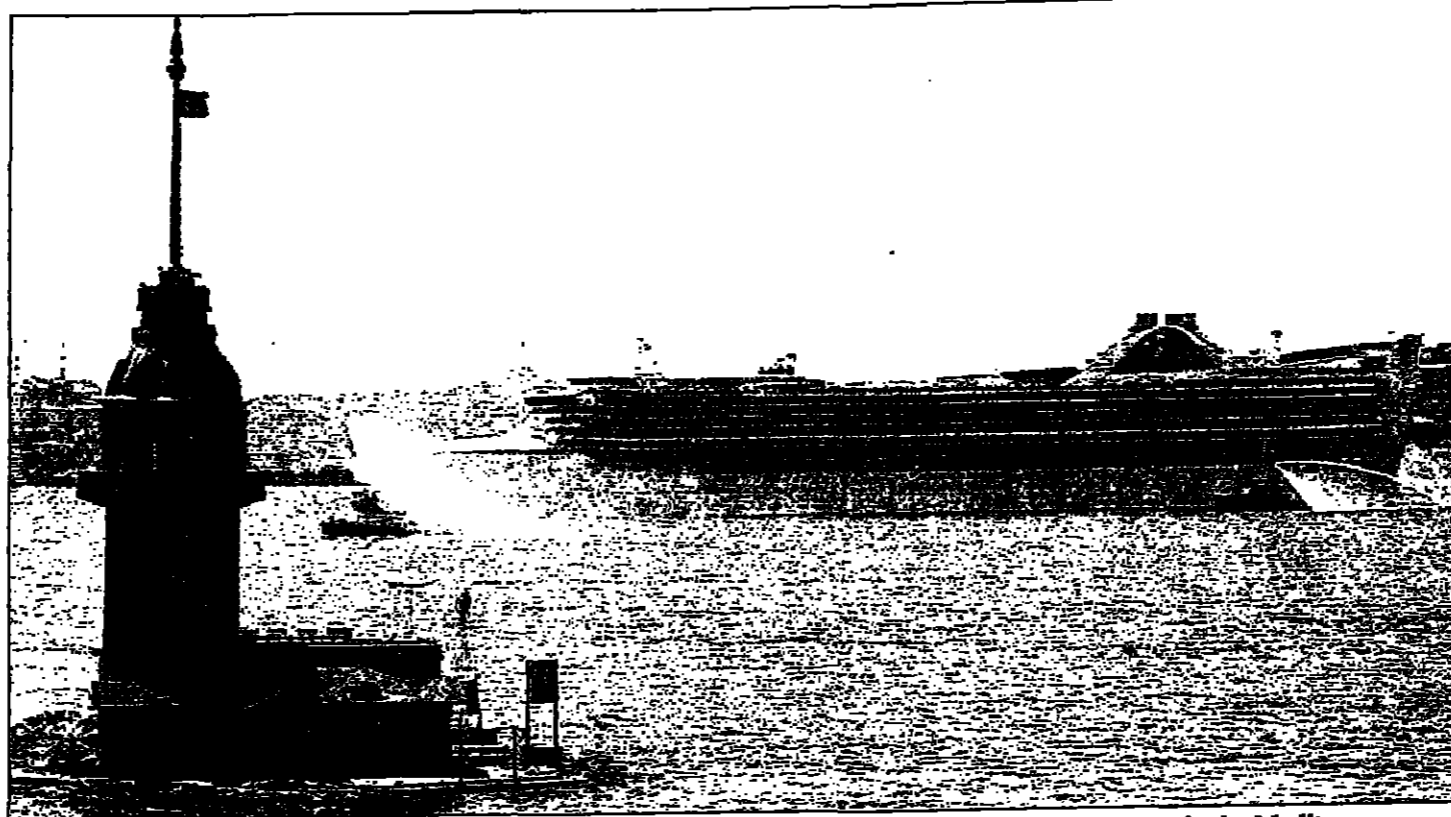
Head teachers were told to set their own goals for improved reading levels if they believed that imposed targets were unrealistic.

Farming emergency

Farmers and agricultural businesses appealed to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor for action to save the rural economy from collapse and asked for a rural charter.

Upside down ticket earns driver fine

A driver was given a £15 fixed penalty ticket for displaying his parking sticker upside down in a council car park.



P&O's Grand Princess, the world's largest cruise ship, leaving Istanbul yesterday on her maiden voyage in the Mediterranean

BUSINESS

British Airways: Delays in approving the alliance with American Airlines have had the effect of blocking rival carriers from Heathrow at a cost of tens of millions of pounds.

Russia: Boris Yeltsin is to convene an emergency meeting after Russian share prices plunged by nearly 13 per cent and interest rates soared to 150 per cent.

Powercrisis: The Northern Irish engineer said that losses for the year to March 31 will be more than six times larger than the board expected.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 100.5 to 5870.2. Sterling rose from 103.4 to 103.5 after a fall from \$1.6356 to \$1.6307 but a rise from DM2.9880 to DM2.9051.

SPORT

Cricket: Leicestershire and Yorkshire reached the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup at the expense of Kent and Durham respectively.

Rugby union: England named four uncapped players against Australia in Brisbane on June 6. Six more will start on the replacements' bench.

Football: Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, refused to criticise Andy Goram for pulling out of the World Cup squad two weeks before the opening game.

Cycling: Julian Winn, a former mountain bike rider from Wales, held off fierce international competition to win the fourth stage of the Prutour.

ARTS

New on video: Bond fans can enjoy Pierce Brosnan's second outing as 007 from their comfort of their armchairs as he pursues a mad media mogul in Tomorrow Never Dies.

New movies: John Boorman comes roaring back with his dynamic Cannes award-winner, The General, about the Irish criminal Martin Cahill.

Bath jazz: While most jazz festivals lead to America for their inspiration, the Clerical Medical Jazz Weekend in Bath remains firmly focused on Europe.

Global warming: Jack Shepherd is acting and directing in the new Globe season, has a new Wildlife series running, and is writing a play.

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stutzart: Alzheimer's disease, Asperger's syndrome, contact lenses; heart attacks and lead poisoning.

A good read: Should we have faith in science? Roger Scruton investigates; down on the beach with Joseph Connolly.

Bargains of the week: From a walking break on Egg and Muck to a tour of the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

If we continue in the present fashion, it may not be long before the next instance of Springfield and Dunblane takes place in an Israeli school or kindergarten.

Irish "yes" vote: Mall demonstrations; Arts Council; Glyndebourne football pho'ja.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

EDUCATION Learning by e-mail in the virtual classroom of the future

MEDIA Dawn Bebe, the Editor of award-winning New Woman magazine, talks to Carol Midgley

Preview: Who needs estate agents? All the Right Moves (BBC2, 8.30pm). Review: Professor Winston's body language leaves Joe Joseph unimpressed... Pages 50, 51

Fair votes

The health of our democracy depends on future referendums being conducted in accordance with rules which command broad acceptance... Page 23

Country guardians

Farmers, the bedrock of Britain's yeoman stock, are increasingly guardians of a landscape that shapes us all, town-dwellers and countrymen alike. This role should be extended... Page 23

A matter of honour

In every war, countless acts of gallantry go unrecognised. Governments do better to honour modest anonymous heroes than bolster the reputations of men who sought glory in their own lives... Page 23

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

His theme makes Douglas Hurd's novel a more important book than most political memoirs. Perhaps it helps to explain the progressive alienation of the Major administration from public opinion... Page 22

MAGNUS LINKLATER

I intend to talk about Sean Connery, Donald Trump and possibly even Bill Gates when I give evidence to the Neill committee. I am sure they will appreciate the injection of a little glamour and gossip after weeks of trawling through party political funding... Page 22

DAVID WEATHERALL

In Great Britain there are now some 30,000 exponents of complementary medicine, offering more than 60 different treatments, ranging from osteopathy through aromatherapy to transpersonal psychology. Since patients are voting with their feet, the medical profession cannot continue to ignore these approaches... Page 22

Vice-Admiral Sir Ernie Pope, Professor John Roalson, medieval historian; John Phillips, ambassador... Page 25

Irish "yes" vote: Mall demonstrations; Arts Council; Glyndebourne football pho'ja... Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,803

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS
1 Casual way to feed tame bird? (7).
2 Renovate coat by mistake? (7).
3 Like dreadfully ugly things, less good? (9).
4 Provide bachelor with token of love? (5).
5 Resemble, in parts? (5).
6 Lawyer is pursuing right to be in trade? (9).
7 Fare on vehicle specially fixed for the elderly? (5,2,6).
8 Lines for the Fool, introduction of Lear? (8,5).
9 Exercise - it's repeated in a nasty fog? (3,6).
10 Crockery one piece still? It's not serious? (5).
11 Musician Doolittle got news from? (5).
12 Stone originally fell near one? (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20802. A grid of letters with words highlighted in different colors.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a showery day, with the best of any sunshine in the west. Some of the showers will be heavy with thunder. Northern and eastern Scotland will be cloudy with few light showers, heavier showers may reach south-east Scotland later.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and precipitation for various locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations, including sunrise and sunset times.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

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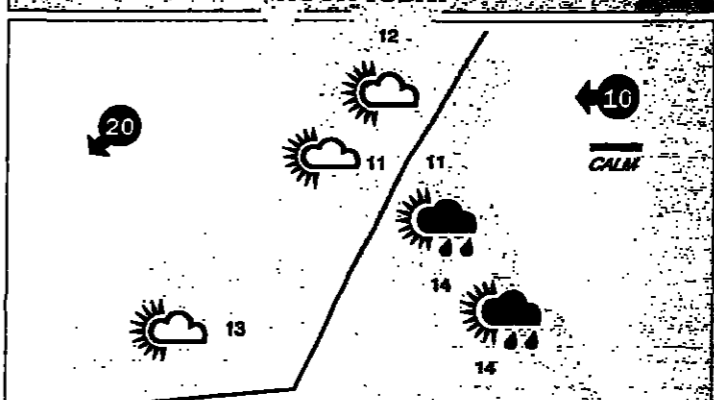
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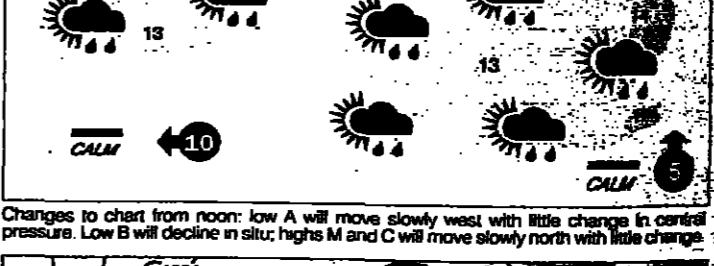
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

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NOON TODAY



CHANGES TO CHART FROM ROOM: LOW A WILL MOVE SLOWLY WEST WITH LITTLE CHANGE IN CENTRAL PRESSURE.



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey 17C (63F); lowest day temp: America BC (48F); highest night temp: Weymouth, Buckinghamshire 1.42C; highest sunshine: Tice, Inner Hebrides 15.4hrs.

Large advertisement for Southgate Bank, featuring the headline 'EMI is hit' and 'Southgate Bank'.

Advertisement for travel insurance: 'However many times you hop across to Europe you're covered with our travel insurance. From £49.95 a year. Available to non-Cardmembers. 0800 700 737. No need to compromise.'

Handwritten Arabic text: 'سكزا من الاصل'

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS Suharto dynasty clings on in Jakarta PAGES 31



ARTS John Boorman's award-winning The General PAGES 36-39



SPORT Goram calls halt to colourful international career PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50-51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

Yeltsin calls emergency meeting as rates soar to 150% and shares fall 13%

Russian markets in turmoil

BY JANET BUSH, CARL MORTISHED AND SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BIG FALL IN FTSE AFTER RENEWED CHAOS IN ASIA

BORIS YELTSIN, Russia's President, has been forced to convene an emergency meeting at the Kremlin today as Moscow share prices plunged nearly 13 per cent and interest rates soared to 150 per cent as the central bank desperately defended the rouble.

THE LONDON STOCK MARKET endured big falls yesterday as renewed turmoil in Asia and the growing Russian financial crisis spilled over into Western markets.

and was down about 115 points by the close in London. Other European markets also incurred heavy losses with the Frankfurt Dax falling 173.01 to 5466.88.

markets lower, losing 5.26 per cent following a warning that the island is on the verge of recession for the first time since records began in the early 1960s.

on its motor business and it is in the process of selling them to Coca-Cola itself. Of the retailers, Littlewoods has pulled out of Russia while Storehouse still has three branches of Mothercare and two of Bhs in Russian cities, all franchises.

BA reaps benefits of American deal delay

BY JON ASHWORTH

DELAYS in approving the alliance between British Airways and American Airlines have blocked rival carriers from Heathrow at a cost to them of millions of pounds in lost revenues.

BA yesterday announced pre-tax profits down 9.4 per cent at £580 million in the year to March 31. Sales rose 3.4 per cent to £8.6 billion.

Mr Ayling dismissed rumours that he might leave BA, saying he had given assurances to Sir Colin Marshall, the BA chairman. It has been suggested that Mr Ayling is being lined up for a senior political post.

Mr Ayling said: "I haven't received any offers, I don't expect to receive any offers, and I'm not seeking any offers. My chairman has, because of the rumours, asked me to confirm that he could count on my continuing with British Airways, and I was happy to tell him he could."

There has been talk of growing disquiet among BA non-executives and City institutions. Cost-cutting achieved savings of £250 million last year, rising to £750 million by 2000. BA is taking on 15,000 new staff over the next three years, but expects to lose 9,000 through voluntary redundancy.

Mr Ayling shrugged off talk of low morale, saying: "There's a very strong mood of optimism in the company."

BA shares slipped 13.5p to close at 636.5p. Fully diluted earnings per share were 17.3p, down from 17.7p a year ago. A final dividend of 11.9p a share makes a total for the year of 16.6p (15.05p) a share.

Tempus page 30



Bob Ayling says that while the AA alliance is in a regulatory holding pattern, BA dominates at Heathrow. The group reported full-year pre-tax profits of £580m

Newcastle's chiefs resign in protest

SIR TERENCE HALL, the chairman of Newcastle United, and John Mayo, the senior non-executive at the club, resigned yesterday, having failed in their attempts to make Sir John Hall reduce his influence over the club.

Sir John, whose family company, Cameron Hall, owns a 57 per cent Newcastle stake, was due to stand down as chairman of the football club subsidiary on Sunday. He only took on the role when his son, Douglas, and Freddy Shepherd, who was the football club chairman, resigned after insulting fans in a Sunday newspaper. Sir John is now planning to stay on.

Commentary, page 29

Powerscreen sees losses of £65m

BY ADAM JONES

POWERSCREEN, the Northern Irish engineer, has said that losses for the year to March 31 will be more than six times larger than the board expected. The warning has also prompted the Stock Exchange to investigate heavy trading in the shares in recent days.

Powerscreen said in January that it faced a charge of about £47 million after financial irregularities were uncovered at its Mafro subsidiary, a matter the Serious Fraud Office is investigating. At the time, the group said the overall loss for the year was likely to be £10 million. Yesterday, it increased this to £65 million.

Powerscreen shares fell from 133.5p to 110.5p yesterday. The

Stock Exchange is more interested in the 36p fall on Tuesday, when it was announced that 690,000 Powerscreen shares had been sold at a discount. An spokesman said: "We always investigate when there's a movement like this, particularly ahead of an announcement."

The shares are thought to have been sold by Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank, which bought a large tranche from Guardian Royal Exchange last Friday. Powerscreen said it revised its losses estimate as trading at continuing businesses was £10 million worse than expected.

Commentary, page 29

Southgate bullish as EMI is hit by pound

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SIR Colin Southgate, chairman of the EMI Group, yesterday rejected City claims that the breakdown of takeover talks with Seagram left the group at a disadvantage in the competitive international music market.

"We can afford to spend as much money as we want on any album or artist we want," said Sir Colin, who does not believe that with Seagram's purchase of PolyGram there are any other possible large targets for EMI or realistic predators.

The EMI chairman insisted that the Seagram talks had never reached serious negotiations on figures. He was speaking as the company announced a full-year profit of £315 million.

for exceptional items for the year to March 31. At constant exchange rates the fall was 10 per cent to £342.4 million. On top of the strong pound there were "disappointing" performances in Japan and Germany, although EMI still had 32 releases that sold more than a million copies during the year.

Anthony de Larrinaga, of Parimure Gordon, the broker, said that for EMI it was "really Seagram or nothing" and it was time to get back to basics.

EMI's total dividend of 16p represents a 6.7 per cent rise. The current year is expected to see a modest rise in profit to about £315 million.

Commentary, page 29

Sun Life of Canada float 'not delayed'

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

SUN LIFE OF Canada yesterday insisted plans to demutualise next year had not been delayed by a scandal that has erupted in its home country.

The group's chief actuary has resigned in disgrace after a court in Ontario last month found him guilty of giving fraudulent evidence on behalf of Sun Life of Canada in 1995.

Robert Sharkey, who was vice-president of investments at the time, was found to have lied about the assets held in three funds run by the insurer. Mr Sharkey had testified that mortgages held in the funds were long term in order to match the insurer's long-term liabilities to its policyholders. In fact, a substantial number were found

to be short-term investments. The £673 million (£284 million) black hole in the funds that could harm payouts. Donald Stewart, newly appointed chief executive of Sun Life of Canada, and chief actuary at the time Mr Sharkey gave his controversial evidence, yesterday denied that policyholders were at risk from the revelations.

The firm's 300,000 policyholders in the UK are not affected because assets held by their policies are protected by the Department of Trade and Industry. In April the Personal Investment Authority in the UK levied a record £600,000 fine on the company over its slow progress in settling 27,000 cases where it may have mis-sold personal

investments in the 1990s and early 2000s.

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BUSINESS TODAY table with columns for STOCK MARKET MOVEMENTS, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and STERLING. Includes data for FTSE 100, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P Composite, and various bond yields.

Cellnet effort Cellnet, the mobile telephone operator controlled by British Telecom, launched the largest marketing campaign since it was formed in 1985. It wants to try to stem the loss of customers to rivals and to build up the number of subscribers. Page 28

Thorn disposals Thorn, the international rental chain currently in takeover talks, is to sell all of its 1,630 overseas stores to become a British company dominated by Radio Rentals. The company hopes to sell all non-British divisions. Page 29

# Siebe's 'ninja managers' take on Japan's answer to Branson

BY MARTIN WALLER

IN A week dominated by clashes of culture between the British and Japanese ways of doing things, a UK company famous for its "ninja managers" is facing a very oriental battle.

of Nemic-Lambda, a Japanese group that makes switches to turn on and off a range of telecoms and computer equipment. Siebe would now like to switch off permanently and with extreme prejudice, the employment of its founder and chairman and his allies on the board.

structure on the business. Mr Madarame, a devout Buddhist, has claimed that his company is run on "spherical" rather than "hierarchical" lines. This is not a view that cuts any ice with Siebe. "This rather implies that it is run by committee," said an admittedly baffled UK spokesman. "That isn't the way this company operates - at the end of the day somebody has to make a decision."

Madarame and fellow directors relating to use of company finances. "These allegations were put to Mr Madarame about six weeks ago and he was asked to resign. He initially agreed and then a couple of days later changed his mind," says Siebe. As a result the company will oppose the Madarame camp's re-election at an annual meeting in Tokyo next month and has nominated their replacements. Such an open rift, in the full public gaze of an annual meeting, is almost unknown in Japan, where disagreements are usually settled behind

closed doors. But Siebe's controlling majority means it will certainly carry the day. By an odd irony, Siebe has adopted Eastern-style martial arts as a form of quality management. A couple of years ago the company unveiled its so-called "Six Sigma" programme, an idea taken from US management practice, which entails turning loose a team of 30 "master black belts", as they are styled, managers with a brief to go into and put right any underperforming area of the business. The announcement coincided with a certain craze in children's toys, and

Siebe's black belts were promptly dubbed "ninja managers" by the press. The company is playing down any suggestion of a disagreement over management styles with the spherically inclined Mr Madarame, insisting the dispute is merely over the allegations of misconduct which have also been taken up by the Japanese subsidiary's own auditors and are the subject of a special inquiry being carried out by the Japanese courts. "It's a corporate governance issue," said the Siebe spokesman. "It's not a clash of cultures."

## Cellnet launches £20m sales campaign

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

CELLNET, the mobile telephone operator controlled by BT, yesterday launched the largest marketing campaign since it was formed in 1985. It wants to try to stem the loss of customers to rivals and build its subscriber base. The £20 million advertising and direct mail campaign will draw attention to a series of initiatives that include ending minimum contract periods; compensating customers automatically every quarter if they are signed up to an inappropriate plan; and offering discounts of up to 50 per cent through a family call discount scheme based on BT's Friends and Family.

For those who choose to sign longer-term contracts there will be additional discounts of up to 15 per cent. Peter Erskine, who became Cellnet managing director at the beginning of April, said the "First in Fairness" and "First in Freedom" were all designed in the US so that news would not leak to their UK rivals before the scheme was introduced. The new offers will be available to direct Cellnet digital customers from the beginning of July but Mr Erskine yesterday met independent operators to try to persuade them also to introduce the new package. "Churn", or disconnections in the mobile telephone market, are running at between 20 and 30 per cent a year and Cellnet have been at the high end.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.72
Austria Sch	21.41
Belgium Fr	63.15
Canada C\$	2.500
Cyprus Cyp£	0.588
Denmark Dkr	11.87
Finland Mk	8.39
France Fr	100.22
Germany Dm	3.07
Greece Dr	327
Hong Kong \$	13.48
Iceland	129
Ireland Pt	1.21
Israel Shtk	6.33
Italy Lira	3042
Japan Yen	239.56
Malta	0.673
Netherlands Gld	3.467
New Zealand \$	3.20
Norway Kr	12.88
Portugal Esc	310.18
S Africa Rd	3.10
Spain Ptas	236.47
Sweden Kr	13.88
Switzerland Fr	2.56
Turkey Lira	47.148
USA \$	1.739

He hopes that within 12 months Cellnet's churn figures will be much closer to 20 per cent than 30 and that the customer base will continue to grow. If that happened, the scheme would pay for itself "easily" in the first year. "We are going hard and we are going fast and we will start to know the uptake by early autumn," said Mr Erskine, who came to Cellnet - which has more than three million subscribers - from BT. Mr Erskine said the aim of the initiative was to end "confusion" in the market. In addition to the First packages, which would be "for ever" and would be expanded, Cellnet also announced new tariff cuts and the introduction of its own pre-pay package, something that has been successful for other mobile operators.



Beating the furniture blues: Harvey Lipsith, front, and director Stan Kaufman

## Alders sales light up

ALLDERS, the department store chain, has shrugged off woes that have dogged the furniture sector to return underlying sales growth of 4.9 per cent over April and May. Shares of the company added 3p to 229.5p yesterday after it turned in a pre-tax profit of £16.9 million (£16 million) for the six months to March 31 after an exceptionally strong Christmas.

Although its store card spoke for just over a quarter of sales over the six months, it managed to slightly increase gross margins from 5.6 per cent to 5.63 per cent. The company also announced plans to open two more stores in Chester and Chichester, which will take its overall portfolio to 40. Harvey Lipsith, chief executive, said the company is

continuing to build the Alders name and intends to roll out a few own-brand labels over the rest of this year. He added that sales growth for the seven weeks to May 16 would have been 8.2 per cent, if the effects of the Easter sale had not been factored out. An interim dividend of 3.4p (3p) is due to be paid on August 6.

## Anglian ignores Ofwat's dividend warning

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ANGLIAN WATER kicked off the reporting round by water companies yesterday with a high dividend rise which is expected to anger the industry regulator. Anglian raised its dividend by 13 per cent despite having increased earnings by only 1.4 per cent. The increase, which is likely to be repeated by the other water companies, comes after repeated warnings from Ian Byatt, the regulator of Ofwat about large dividend payments. The companies have outpaced other utilities and most of the FTSE companies with their returns to shareholders, causing concern among consumer groups and calls for tougher regulation. Anglian boosted pre-tax profits by 32 per cent after exceptional results to £274.2 million. Last year's figures had been affected by restructuring costs while this year's were boosted by cost savings and a contribution from Hartlepool Water which Anglian bought last summer. Pre-tax profits before exceptional results rose 4.2 per cent to £267.8 million. Earnings per share rose 1.4 per cent to 88p. The company said it was braced for a tough pricing review in the year 2000. Mr Byatt is currently setting out the framework for the review which will be published next year and will take effect in the millennium. He is expected to impose a tough one-off cut in the charges made by the companies after having said that they have made greater than expected efficiencies. Chris Mellor, the managing director, said Mr Byatt had "a great opportunity to continue to incentivise us to world-class performance. On the other hand, if he gets it wrong, he could set the industry back ten years."

## Boeing says delivery delays will continue

BOEING, the American aircraft company, said that Asia's economic crisis could add to its production problems and that delivery delays on its most popular model, the Next Generation 737, would continue through the year. Boeing said although most of its Asian customers have accepted their 1998 aircraft orders, the region's woes may mean a drag on future production rates, particularly for the Boeing 747 jumbo jets. Boeing has been struggling since it attempted to dramatically boost aircraft production to meet rising demand. The Seattle company has gone from producing about 18 aircraft a month in April 1996 to 26 in 1997. It is planning to produce 49 aircraft a month by the end of this year. Boeing said it had delivered 34 aircraft so far in May, including all models, and plans to deliver about ten more by the end of the month. It also said it plans to deliver about 250 commercial jet transports in the first half of the year.

## Plan for Aerospatiale

THE French Government yesterday asked Yves Michot, the chairman of Aerospatiale, to submit proposals for floating the company in case this is necessary to forge alliances with other European companies. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, said in a statement that flotation would help future large industrial programmes. Aerospatiale, announced earlier this month it was taking over the State's 46 per cent share in Dassault Aviation in order to streamline the French aerospace sector in preparation for European alliances.

## Lawrie shares up £5

LAWRIE GROUP, the AIM-listed food production company, raised pre-tax profits from £14.4 million to £26.4 million in the year to the end of December. Earnings rose from 338.07p to 699.23p and the total dividend rises from 93p to 98p. The company said that the first-quarter results in most parts of the country were encouraging with tea and coffee prices ahead of last year. It is anticipated that profits in the first half of this year will be substantially ahead of last year. The shares rose £5 to £47.50.

## Telemetrix to sell GTI

TELEMETRIX, the electronic equipment group, expects to raise £11.4 million from the sale of its stake in GTI Corporation to Technitrol Inc. The deal values GTI at £20.7 million. Telemetrix said it would reinvest the proceeds in Zelex and Trend, its two subsidiaries. Telemetrix said that for the first four months of the current year trading in its British operations were "well ahead" of last year in spite of lower demand from the Asia Pacific region. Telemetrix shares were up 2 1/2p to 53p.

## BP to sell subsidiary

BP CHEMICALS is to sell Adibis, the lubricant and fuel additives business, to Lubrizol Corp of Ohio. It did not disclose financial details of the deal, but said Adibis, based in Surrey, had sales in 1997 of more than £100 million. BP Chemicals said it was "focusing increasingly on the petrochemical sector and Adibis makes an excellent fit with Lubrizol's current business and future growth plans". BP Chemicals expects 78 of Adibis's 165 staff to transfer to Lubrizol, while manufacturing staff will remain with BP Chemicals.

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**Airtours slips on winter losses**

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# Sir Colin enters the New Age

Sir Colin Southgate has discovered an affinity for New Age music. It is, he says, very gentle and melodic. This sounds like the perfect antidote to what has been going on at EMI of late. Sir Colin is now happy to eschew the talk of mega mergers.

Thanks to Edgar Bronfman Jr's decision to splash £6.5 billion on buying PolyGram, the marriage market for major music businesses has been brought to a halt. To a background of soothing guitars, Sir Colin can enjoy a welcome freedom from takeover threat and continue the friendly discussions that might lead to him buying a small New Age business in the US.

There are plenty of independent labels around for EMI to add to its record stack, but the fact that the company's own independence seems almost guaranteed will undoubtedly disappoint some investors. Of the world's big six music companies, Seagram was the only one that could have taken a partner without hitting hard-against monopolies objections — and even now it may face some protestations in the US and France to its PolyGram deal.

It is hardly flattering for Sir Colin to have to admit that, once Seagram had walked away from its flirtation with his organisation, no financial buyers slapped in a bid. Kirk Kerkorian made for some fun, but did not even suggest a meeting. If the equity funds that are splashing cash around so generously were

not tempted to take a punt on EMI, that is a message investors should take to heart. The company is not a horde of secret treasures waiting to be unlocked. But what yesterday's figures make clear is that EMI is a basically strong business in a difficult market place. For a company in the entertainment world, it has also proved to be peculiarly inept in its public relations. It is hard to imagine that boardroom problems could have been handled in a more destabilising way.

Even now, investors have reason to be unhappy about the huge payment made to ease the departure of Jim Fifield. While EMI insists that the figure of £12.5 million was only arrived at after substantial mitigation, this is hardly reason for praise, merely for alarm that it could have been in a situation where dispensing with the services of an executive might have brought a bill closer to £30 million. Now Fifield, once seen as the man who brought magic to EMI, is now seen as a liability. The remarkable performance in the US is now to be attributed to Ken Berry, who, goes the current party line, sorted out the mess in the US which, apparently, Fifield was paid huge sums to create.

## COMMENTARY by our City Editor



and currently on the payroll of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

At a London School of Economics conference yesterday, he placed the blame for the deadly ripples from Asia squarely on the risky lending practices of what he calls Dead Banks Walking. Japanese banks had been technically insolvent for years but, desperate for income that might nurse them back to health, they were the biggest lenders of all to South-East Asia.

Korean banks, many of which were bankrupt in 1996, tried to trade their way out of extinction by ever more reckless lending. The spread of disease from Asia to the likes of Russia and Brazil has invariably been put down to the irrationality of hedge funds or emerging markets desks that do not have the wit to distinguish between different economies. The real story is even more alarming.

Korean banks were heavy lenders to both countries as well as Indonesia. But these were not

all ordinary loans. The zombie banks of Seoul were selling credit derivatives that allowed the more risk-addicted international investor to bet on the risk of the Russian and Brazilian economies, earning fat fees and totally disregarding the risk to their own balance sheets.

Brazilian banks, who began a love affair with risk during the days of hyperinflation, leapt heavily to Russia and took huge leveraged positions in Brady bonds. When Asian currencies started to implode, a vicious chain reaction was set off. Korean banks faced with margin calls pulled the plug on loans to Brazil and Russia. Brazilian banks called in loans to Russia, faced with pressure from its Korean creditors and a 20 per cent plunge in their Brady bonds. No wonder Russia was destabilised: Brazilian and Korean banks are estimated to account for one third of its internal debt.

Those who argue that free market capitalism is nothing more than a global gambling house have plenty of ammunition here and the zombie banks are not the full story. Banks in America and Europe as well as Asia have all been at the casino tables: they share an estimated \$25 billion exposure in derivatives to Indonesia alone.

## It's Hall in the game at Newcastle

Shortly before Newcastle United floated on the stock market, there was a kerfuffle about the resignation of the team manager, Kevin Keegan. He was not prepared to commit to a long-term contract, and the brokers to the issue, NatWest Markets, felt this uncertainty would have to be highlighted in the prospectus. So the board decided that if he was to go, he should go before the float. Why did they worry? After all, two thirds of the board have since resigned within 16 months of the company going public. Having already lost the joint chief executive, finance director and two non-executives (pursued by tabloid journalists), yesterday

saw the departure of the chairman, Sir Terence Harrison, and the non-executive director, John Mayo, who also happens to be finance director of GEC. The only independent non-executive left is Denis Cassidy, who is rapidly running out of directorships. The constant through all of this has been the 57 per cent stake owned by Cameron Hall developments — the family company of Sir John Hall.

The latest resignations come four days before Sir John is due to step down as chairman of the football club subsidiary, a post which is not on the main board. The company says that it is looking for a new independent chairman and non-executive. But with Sir John determined to stay on, despite opposition from Sir Terence, how can Newcastle fill either of these posts when it is clear that Sir John, not the board, controls the company?

## Checking the bill

Powerscreen's hopeless underestimate of the scale of its financial disaster leaves little reason for credence in its belief that £4 million will cover the cost of the team of accountants, lawyers and public relations consultants now trying to sort out the mess. The SFO is digging around the case, but far from raising hopes of retribution, this is a reminder that it has still to nail culprits over the remarkably similar fiasco at Wickes.

## Airtours slips on winter losses

By CARL MORTSHED  
AIRTOURS, the travel company, fell deeper into the red in the half year to March 31, a fact which raised questions about the firm's ability to eliminate the winter loss that typically plagues the travel industry.

Airtours invested heavily in Scandinavia and Canada in the hope that winter sun holidays would balance the seasonal bias in the UK to summer holidays. However, the Scandinavian business suffered from overcapacity and higher costs which added some £12 million to the first-half deficit.

Shares in the package tour and cruise operator slumped from 52p to 48p yesterday following announcement of the increased losses. The pre-tax loss for the six months rose from £12.7 million to £23.2 million.

David Crossland, Airtours's chairman, insisted that the rest of the business was going forward. He said the exit of a Scandinavian tour operator last year caused a rush by other operators to grab market share. "We all anticipated that we would get more business than was actually there."

The company said that UK bookings for this summer are 8 per cent ahead of last year while Costa Cruises, the joint venture with the American firm, Carnival, is expecting higher margins from improved occupancy. It continues to invest in newly acquired Polish and Finnish operations.

Airtours is paying an interim dividend of 1.5p per share, up 13 per cent on last year.

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Steve Marshall said Thorn had ticked its way through a City wish-list in the hope of reviving its share price

# Thorn poised to sell all its overseas divisions

By FRASER NELSON

THORN, the international rental chain currently in takeover talks, is to sell all its 1,630 overseas stores to become a British company dominated by Radio Rentals.

Steve Marshall, who took over from Mike Metcalf as chief executive in February, hopes to sell all non-British divisions within 18 months, starting with the 1,100-strong Rent-a-Center chain in the US.

If Thorn is not taken over, he intends to return most of the cash to shareholders. The rest will be spent on stocking up on digital and widescreen televisions for Radio Rentals and Crazy George.

The decision to sell is the

upshot of a six-month strategic review, and will reduce Thorn to a third of its current size.

The City gave a cool reception to the plans yesterday, and the shares nudged up 5p to 204p. Analysts suggested that Thorn's takeover talks have slowed, and may soon be called off altogether.

Mr Marshall said the company had effectively ticked its way through a City wish-list in the hope of reviving its share price. He said: "What the market needed was a short to medium-term solution. We have provided one."

He said the company had a shortlist of potential bidders for Rent-a-Center and pointed

out that Central Rentals, its main US rival, was sold recently for £64 million — equivalent to a year's turnover. On the same basis, Thorn's US division would fetch £560 million.

He said underlying growth for new installations at Radio Rentals was up 10 per cent in the UK in the past quarter. It has decided to stop stocking computers because keeping track of the stream of upgrades has become too expensive.

Its UK expansion is concentrated on Crazy George, which rents equipment through 80 stores at high rates to customers who cannot secure any

other means of credit. It blamed problems in Scotland on local newspapers which accused the Crazy George chains of exploiting the uncreditworthy.

# Friends shrugs off pre-merger drop in profits

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

FRIENDS Ivory & Sime, the newly formed fund management group, yesterday shrugged off a sharp fall in pre-tax profits that occurred before the merger of Friends Provident and Ivory & Sime.

In the nine-and-a-half months to February 17, when the merger was completed, the two groups made £3.38 million in pre-tax profits compared with £6.8 million in the full financial year of 1996-97. This was on turnover on continuing operations reduced from £20.46 million to £15.63 million. Earnings per share were 5.43p compared with 14.4p.

Since announcing the merger in November funds under management have grown by £2.6 billion to £24.6 billion. However, the results showed the new group had also taken

a £1.5 million loss from the diminution in value of goodwill on Ivory & Sime's demise. This had previously been written off to reserves but had to be adjusted after further fund losses in the run up to the merger.

Sir David Kinloch, chairman, said: "It is still early days since the merger but we are making good progress and I expect this to continue. Although the high level of the markets in the US and the UK gives some cause for concern, I believe we can look to the future with considerable confidence."

As previously stated, the company is not paying a final dividend. It is changing its year end to December 31 in line with Friends Provident life office.

## First quarter sales rise at Kingfisher

SIR Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, told shareholders yesterday that the first quarter had seen sales increases in all its divisions (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The group's like-for-like sales were up 5.9 per cent, with total sales up 8.5 per cent.

B&Q, the DIY market leader, increased like-for-like sales by 5.7 per cent. The wet weather over Easter hit gardening product sales but other product areas were strong.

In electricals, Darty, the French electrical retailer, grew same store sales 9.6 per cent in local currency. Same store sales at Comet, its British cousin, were only 1.6 per cent ahead.

Superdrug's same store sales were 5.1 per cent ahead while Woolworths was 5.5 per cent up.

# Full year losses cut by 20% at Energis

By CHRIS AVRIES

ENERGIS, the telecoms division of the National Grid which floated on the Stock Exchange last year, yesterday said it had reduced pre-tax losses by 20 per cent from £77.5 million to £62 million for the year ended March 31.

The company said that the business telecoms market, of which it has a 2 per cent share, was forecast to rise in value from its present £8 billion to £15 billion in 2005. Analysts expect the group to make its first profit next year.

# Market debut to value New Look at £330m

By FRASER NELSON

NEW LOOK, the women's clothing chain founded by Tom Singh, has confirmed that it will be capitalised at about £330 million when it joins the stock market next month.

In its second attempt at flotation, the company intends to raise £82 million to fund nationwide expansion. Mr Singh himself will retain a 34 per cent stake — worth about £110 million after flotation. He sold off shares worth £170 million four years ago.

The shares will be placed at a range between 15p and 17p, which would deliver a market value between £310 million and £350 million.

City analysts expect the final pricing, due on June 12, to come in at the higher end of this range.

Employees in all New Look's 410 stores are being given the chance to buy a total of £3.6 million worth of shares at the offer price, which would place 1.1 per cent of the company in their hands. Dealing is due to begin on June 19.

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THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

**The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**

**Appointment of Chairman and Two Trustees**

The Secretary of State for Scotland invites applications for the position of Chairman and for two members of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE).

The RBGE is the national Botanic Garden of Scotland and is of international importance not only for its botanic collections and displays but also for its scientific work in botanical research, conservation and education. Its mission is: To explore and to explain the plant kingdom - past, present and future - and its importance to humanity. Its prime task is to pursue whole plant science, notably through research of the highest quality on the origins, diversity and relationships of plants, their significance in the environment, and their conservation.

The RBGE is an executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) funded mainly by grant-in-aid from The Scottish Office. It operates under a Board of Trustees established under the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985. The RBGE employs approximately 200 staff and its income in 1996-97 was around £6 million.

The Chairman must be able to demonstrate leadership qualities and have a proven record of management at a senior level. He or she should have wide experience of public administration or business management ideally with a scientific, horticultural or conservation background.

The two Trustees should have senior research or academic experience of relevance to the RBGE's mission: expertise in plant science, horticulture, conservation biology or the environment would be particularly welcome.

The Board of Trustees meets five times per year. In addition, various sub-committees of the Board meet as required. The time input is estimated at 1-2 days per month for the Chairman and 7 days per annum for Trustees. It is envisaged that appointments will be for a 4-year period. The appointments of the Trustees will commence on 1 November 1998 and of the Chairman on 1 July 1999. The appointments are unpaid but expenses are reimbursed.

Further information and application forms are available from Mrs Maureen Urquhart, The Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department, Room 432, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh EH14 1TY. Tel: 0131-244 6053. Completed applications should be returned to this address by 19 June 1998. Applicants should indicate for which position(s) they wish to be considered. All short-listed candidates will be interviewed.

The Government is committed to the principle of equal opportunities in public appointments and to selection on merit with openness and transparency of process. Political activity will not be a criterion.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Investors look to ride out international storm

CITY investors spent a difficult day battling down the hatches and riding out the storms that had lashed Wall Street and Far Eastern markets overnight.

Market-makers responded quickly to the 150-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average by marking prices lower. In the event, selling pressure proved light and prices managed to close above their lows for the day despite further opening losses in New York last night. The FTSE 100 closed 100.5 down at 5,870.2 having been 134 points lower at one stage. The fall in the FTSE 250 index was restricted to 40.1 at 5,880.8.

Total turnover was a meagre 859 million shares with institutional investors happy to sit things out.

Among the banks HSBC lost 109p at £15.31 and Standard Chartered 40p at 77p reflecting the losses in Hong Kong where the Hang Seng tumbled almost 500 points. Elsewhere in the banks, Halifax, whose chief executive is Mike Blackburn, put on 48p at 92.3p. It is due for inclusion in the Morgan Stanley Capital International index next week. More than 1,500 top international companies are included in the index which enjoys the support of American fund managers looking to invest abroad. The shares were unaffected by reports that Royal Bank of Scotland, 5p easier at £10.25, had rejected an informal bid approach from the Halifax.

Williams reduced an early fall to 4p at 433p, after briefly touching 430p, following bullish comments to shareholders at the annual meeting. Hillsdown Holdings desire to demerge its food and furniture operations into separate units may be thwarted.

City speculators claim the company is now being stalked by at least two suitors anxious to make bids. They are said to include Unigate, down 1p at 652p, and Northern Foods, 3p up at 213p. Hillsdown rallied from an early fall to finish all-square at 198p.

The buyers were again out in force for Calluna, up 3p at 34p, ahead of results due next month with 6.6 million shares changing hands. Hopes are high for the future. The group has developed antivirus software and a mini disk drive. Brokers say these two developments alone could pro-



Jon Foulds, left, chairman and Mike Blackburn, will see Halifax included in the influential MSCI index next week

vide a useful boost to earnings in the long term. Babcock International fell 3p to 84p, despite the news that the Capital Group Companies had increased its holding to 15.8 million shares, or 9.38 per cent. British Steel fell 7p to 156p in further reaction to this week's report from Salomon Smith Barney forecasting fur-

ther hefty job cuts with profits continuing to be dogged by the strong pound.

The forecast of losses totaling £65 million led troubled Powerscreen 23p down at 10p. This will include a thumping deficit of £58.6 million in its Matbro subsidiary where financial irregularities are being investigated. Rio Tinto dropped 17p to

78p with the company refusing to comment on prospects because of uncertain market conditions.

Desire Petroleum's recent spectacular run came to an abrupt halt with the price retreating 6 1/2p to 37 1/2p. The setback follows claims that the discovery made by neighbour Amerada Hess in the Falkland Islands was not commercially viable.

The Desire price has come up from 175p in the past couple of weeks with some brokers claiming its own prospects in the area could be worth more than £40 a share.

Greenwich Resources, which has a 13 per cent stake in Desire, fell 4p to 35p. A profits warning led Hall Engineering nursing a loss of 5p at 20p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that trading in the wire and reinforcement businesses had become increasingly difficult since March.

The final outcome will be significantly below what had been envisaged at the start of the year.

The need for further write-downs and provisions against bad debts at Rap Group will result in losses of £1.3 million for the current year against a previous estimate of £800,000. The shares responded with a loss of 5p to 25p.

Phonelink is hitting the acquisition trail and is currently looking at two possible targets. The shares rose 4p to 55p.

Bethelva Brewery continued to respond to this week's profits news with a rise of 15p to 237p.

A profits warning hit Whitecroft, down 27p to 81p. The company blamed difficulties at its specialist materials division that will leave profits below market expectations.

GILT EDGED: Bond prices edged lower in thin trading with brokers attributing the move to technical factors in the currency markets. Overall selling pressure was described as light.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt ended £0.10 down at £108.95, while among conventional issues Treasury 7.25 per cent eased £0.12 to £10.64.

NEW YORK: Continuing worries over Asia drove Wall Street lower in early trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 104.88 at 8,858.85, its lowest level for almost two months.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 8858.85 (-104.88) S&P Composite 1063.47 (-10.59)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 15064.29 (-220.53)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 9963.43 (-498.78)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 1198.21 (-18.69)

Sydney: AO 2687.0 (-47.7)

Frankfurt: DAX 5400.04 (-153.65)

Singapore: Straits 1295.53 (-17.29)

Brussels: General 10264.33 (-215.63)

Paris: CAC-40 4017.37 (-98.51)

Zurich: SRA Gen 1614.30 (-12.50)

London: FT 30 2854.3 (-45.8) FTSE 100 5870.2 (-100.5) FTSE 250 5880.8 (-40.1) FTSE 350 2862.3 (-43.2) FTSE Europe 100 2812.42 (-42.8) FTSE All-Share 2802.20 (-40.84) FTSE Non-Financials 2945.56 (-33.42) FTSE Fixed Interest 142.72 (+0.36) FTSE Govt Secs 105.01 (-0.3)

Bargains: S&P Volume 8298.8

US: S&P 500 2600.00 (-20.00) German Mark 2.0051 (+0.0077) Exchange Index 103.5 (+0.1) Bank of England official rate (per cent) 5.00

ESDR: RPI 162.4 Apr (4.0%) Jan 1997=100 RPIX 160.4 Apr (3.0%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues: Ambient Media 89, Ambisbus Pub Co 235, Ascot B 1, BTR Red P/B 37p, Baronessmed VCT 2, Captain Oil Wats (A) 37p, Dimension Res Wts 10, Dimension Resources 26p, Dow Warrants 1, Elderstreet Wng VCT 95p, Eskurim Properties 230p, GSK Red P/B 20, Hamleys 75, ICM Computer 25, Inter-Alliance 400, JWE Telecom 147p, Loroath Africa 73p, Matalan 280, Pennine Dwing VCT 100, Talwan IT GD 140, Taylor & Francis 237p, Thomson Travel 190p.

Table listing REISES: Scholl 507p (+35p), Halifax 929p (+46p), Northern Rock 595p (+111p). Table listing FALLS: Hall Eng 200p (-57p), Airtours 489p (-35p), Irish Life 489p (-28p), Boot (Henry) 270p (-15p), Micro Focus 800p (-32p), Shaw Pharmacy 285p (-20p), Stand Chart 772p (-40p), LucasVerity 269p (-12p), Energis 775p (-31p), Cable Wireless 679p (-26p).

Closing Prices Page 34

TEMPUS

Thorn's demerger shame

THORN'S record as an independent public company should make Sir Colin Southgate and his advisers at SBC Warburg hang their heads in shame. Almost from the moment it was demerged from Sir Colin's Thorn EMI in August 1996, it has been abundantly clear that the rental group was in no fit shape to offer itself to unsuspecting investors. Just what a mess Thorn is in was set out in shocking detail yesterday, as the company decided to carve itself up into six pieces prior to selling them.

The new chief executive says this move stems from Thorn's realisation that UK investors are "uncomfortable" with the US arm - scarcely surprising given its poor trading and previously inaccurate assessments of mounting legal problems. Take out the US and Thorn is a sprawling business without compelling synergies. A pity invest-

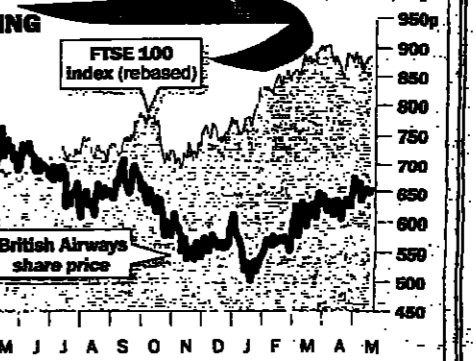
ors were not told two years ago. The changes that are necessary verge on the laughable - for example, setting up an executive committee "to involve the group's senior management more directly in... decision making." The flexible credit operation previously seen as a rare growth opportunity is being closed. In the UK, Radio Rentals is giving up on computers and cookers but, after a six month review, Thorn has still not decided on a new strategy.

Thorn is looking to the future - likely to be a short one. It is still in bid talks, but even if nothing comes of these, it is hard to see Thorn UK remaining independent, with £400 million of sales, a shrinking rental base and a recent past full of botched attempts to extend its product range. At 204p, the shares are only for those with faith in the mystery bidder.

British Airways

AFTER a year dominated by a strike, the strong pound and rumours of boardroom departures, British Airways has not done badly. Annual profits fell 9 per cent to £530 million on sales only 3.4 per cent higher at £8.6 billion, but growth in passenger revenues and a downward trend in unit costs point to long-term benefits.

Bob Ayling, appointed chief executive in January 1996, has already succeeded in squeezing £250 million in annual cost savings under his business efficiency programme and expects the figure to hit £500 million in the current year. Sterling reduced profits by £200 million, and last summer's industrial action cost £125 million, but BA was helped by lower fuel costs and exceptional gains on dispos-



STILL AYLING: FTSE 100 index (rebased) and British Airways share price

Alders

ALLDERS may not have set the world alight with its interim results yesterday, but the absence of any nasties demonstrates the quality of management that the City is taking for granted.

The few months have been ugly ones for sellers of big ticket household goods. Carpetright, MFI and DFS have all hit the rocks, unable to explain why demand has fallen so sharply. Yet Alders, which devotes a fifth of its floorspace to furniture and carpets, has emerged unscathed, and is now enjoying a 9 per cent underlying sales growth. Moreover, it is achieving this while increasing operating margins to 5.6 per cent.

House of Fraser's margin improvements came at the cost of slower sales growth but its shares are priced at 15.5 times forecast earnings. This is a substantial premium to the 11.4 times multiple at which Alders shares trade.

Part of the reason may lie in Alders' reputation for being over-cautious and several steps behind the cutting edge of fashion.

But both these factors now seem to be driving the sales growth at the expense of its more ready competitors. Shares in Alders, which closed at 239p yesterday, have been dragged down by the gloom in the wider retail sector. Its clear outperformance makes the shares good value.

Airtours

HISTORICALLY travel companies have promised more than they can deliver - both to their customers and to their shareholders. But Airtours has tried to break that circle.

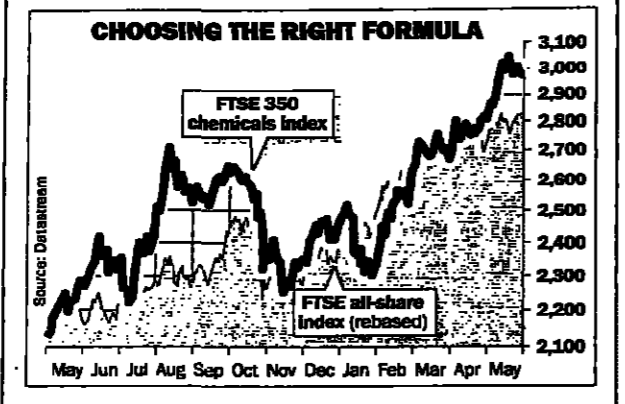
It decided some time ago that it needed to do something to rebalance the profits skew to the second half of the year - some 70 per cent of British people take their big holiday in the summer. The solution

- invest in Scandinavia and Canada where the heavy frost makes winter sun holidays attractive. It will yesterday the strategy was not to eliminate the seasonal loss. But Scandinavia is showing signs of an age-old Airtours problem - overcapacity.

In Britain, four operators bit the bullet two years ago and cut capacity, bringing to an end the ruinous late season discounting. However, the lesson has yet to be learnt in Scandinavia, where the exit of one operator last year led to a scramble by the others for market share. In the end, the market found itself with more capacity than it started with.

This would not be so worrying if the two large players in Scandinavia were not familiar faces: Thomson and Airtours. This industry constantly seems to need to re-learn the same lesson, hardly reassuring to an investor.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN



CHOOSING THE RIGHT FORMULA: FTSE 350 chemicals index and FTSE all-share index

AFTER five "miserable" years, chemicals are back. That is the message going out to clients of Sutherland's, the broker. The takeovers of Courtaulds, Manders, Brunner Mond and Allied Colloids has boosted the sector.

But, says Martin Evans at Sutherland's, even when this element is stripped out, British chemical companies appear set to extend their strong performance with earnings of better quality. Top of Sutherland's "buy" list is Laporte, down 8p at

849p. BTP, 1 1/2p firmer at 509p, and Inspec Group, down 4p at 316p. It is impressed with their strong balance sheets and product profiles.

It also envisages increased support for ICI, up 18p at £11.76 once the final commodity disposals have been completed. Albright & Wilson, steady at 184p, is seen as cheap with a market value of just over half of sales. Akzo is also likely to be asked to stump up more for Courtaulds, 1 1/2p easier at 468p, before the closing date for the bid expires.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Liffe (Cocoa, Robusta Coffee, White Sugar), ICIS-LOR (Crude Oils), Liffe Wheat, Liffe Barley, Liffe Potatoes, Liffe Buffers, Liffe Soybeans, Liffe Soybean Oil, Liffe Soybean Meal, Liffe Soybean Flour, Liffe Soybean Meal, Liffe Soybean Flour, Liffe Soybean Meal, Liffe Soybean Flour.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Eurozone, Three Mth Eurodollars, Three Mth Euroswiss, Three Mth Euroyen, FTSE 100.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various currencies: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA, West Germany, Yen.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices for various companies including AMP Inc, Amgen Inc, Amgen Corp, Amgen Ltd, Amgen PLC, Amgen USA, Amgen UK, Amgen France, Amgen Germany, Amgen Italy, Amgen Spain, Amgen Portugal, Amgen Greece, Amgen Ireland, Amgen Austria, Amgen Switzerland, Amgen Netherlands, Amgen Belgium, Amgen Denmark, Amgen France, Amgen Hong Kong, Amgen Ireland, Amgen Japan, Amgen Korea, Amgen Malaysia, Amgen Netherlands, Amgen New Zealand, Amgen Norway, Amgen Portugal, Amgen Singapore, Amgen Spain, Amgen Sweden, Amgen Switzerland, Amgen Taiwan, Amgen Thailand, Amgen UK, Amgen USA, Amgen West Germany, Amgen Yen.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates for various currencies: Argentina peso, Australia dollar, Brazil real, Chile peso, China yuan, Czech koruna, Danish krone, Deutsche mark, Euro, Hong Kong dollar, Indian rupee, Indonesian rupiah, Japanese yen, Korean won, Malaysian ringgit, New Zealand dollar, Philippine peso, Singapore dollar, South African rand, Swiss franc, Taiwan dollar, Thai baht, UK pound, USA dollar, West German mark, Yen.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various companies including ASDA, Aldi, Asda, Asda PLC, Asda UK, Asda France, Asda Germany, Asda Italy, Asda Spain, Asda Portugal, Asda Greece, Asda Ireland, Asda Austria, Asda Switzerland, Asda Netherlands, Asda Belgium, Asda Denmark, Asda France, Asda Hong Kong, Asda Ireland, Asda Japan, Asda Korea, Asda Malaysia, Asda Netherlands, Asda New Zealand, Asda Norway, Asda Portugal, Asda Singapore, Asda Spain, Asda Sweden, Asda Switzerland, Asda Taiwan, Asda Thailand, Asda UK, Asda USA, Asda West Germany, Asda Yen.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies: Currency, 7 day, 1 month, 3 month, 6 month, Call.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies: Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Madrid, Milan, New York, Oslo, Stockholm, Tokyo, Zurich.

Large advertisement for 'Side S' featuring a portrait of Sir Colin Southgate and text about his music business and the company's expansion.

# Legal retribution is bad economics

Emperor Akihito's state visit has been overshadowed, in our own media, by the visual protest of British people who suffered as prisoners of Japanese troops during the 1941-45 war. Those of us who have lived a relatively soft life in post-war generations, whether in the UK or Japan, have no right to comment on their campaign against cruel oppressors. Most of the business world has been dismayed.

State visits should confirm or improve relations. The last thing business wanted, given Japan's prime role as inward investor in manufacturing and the off-putting strength of sterling against the future euro, was for the agenda to be set by an emotional conflict.

Why has this long-standing complaint so belatedly assumed public prominence? It could have dominated Anglo-Japanese relations for the past 53 years, but has not. It could have dominated the earlier visit of the late Hirohito, whose wartime role was decidedly ambiguous. But it did not.

The unforgiving veterans had

meantime acquired a campaigning radical solicitor, the Yorkshireman Martyn Day, whose own uncle is one of the victims. Mr Day is a great friend of the media. He brings us disturbing fears about the activities of big companies backed by heartrending individual stories of suffering and the fear that it could happen to us. His name will bring groans to the higher echelons of business. He has a history.

A decade ago, Councillor Day of Lewisham, South London, representative of local authority pension funds, became the scourge of a wide gamut of British multinationals such as ICI, GEC, Shell, BTR, Unilever and BAT as the moving force behind London local authorities' joint action against apartheid committee. Other shareholders groaned as he harangued one board after another over their employment policies in South Africa

and urged them all to quit the country. But it was a healthy exercise in our dodgy shareholder democracy, which paved the way for other pressure groups. It scarcely mattered if he was right or wrong. Boards of big companies were forced to recognise that they were players on a testing international stage.

This exercise, along with his successful practice in compensation for industrial injuries and pollution, sadly seems to have convinced Mr Day that big business is the great Satan. Since then, he has made himself the leading lawyer acting for multiple parties against any organisation with money to pay. He has led several scare prosecutions of recent times, featuring big groups and actions against privatised utilities.

In several high-profile, long-running and expensive actions, Mr Day has vainly challenged



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL). He has sued ICI and the London Docklands Development Board over public nuisance. It was Mr Day who backed in the courts the complementary scares that underground electrical mains and overhead electrical wires caused cancer. He conducted a court campaign to close a major South London road artery because it

caused too much pollution. And he now leads the joint action against tobacco companies.

This process has thrown up several innovations. Mr Day's firm helped to doom the old legal aid system, from which it drew £8.3 million in a single year. He has come to dominate the British version of the American class action. In one of the Sellafield cases, Mr Day advertised in the local paper that: "if you are interested in making a claim against BNFL, then why not phone us". Similar tactics were used, on a wider scale, for the tobacco case.

Such developments are disturbing for business. Any enterprise must be responsible for any damage its business causes and the threat of legal action is a great spur to care. On a grander scale, the legal system rightly helps the few who suffer grievously from approved activities or incompetence

in the way business operates.

Mr Day is evidently treating Japan as a big business. Such campaigns on behalf of ordinary people are paralleled by billion pound actions mounted by accountants acting as receivers against other accountants acting as auditors. Only lawyers, for some reason, escape from this professional suicide.

Increasingly, such actions seek to punish the hated business organisation, rather than just to seek proper redress for a wrong. This is transparently true of the action against tobacco companies, even though most of us are either directly or indirectly investors. They are also couched in such terms that the defendant cannot possibly concede. If Mr Day had won all his actions against BNFL, the nuclear reprocessing industry would surely have had to close. Actions against Japan fall into

much the same category. Doubtless, Japan would be happy to settle its guilt for, say, £170 million. But the sums at stake, assuming Asians have equal rights, are a minimum of £100 billion and possibly much more. Ultimately, the veterans involved understandably want to punish Japan, to seek retribution, rather than settle.

These are rightly political matters. Clients hope their lawyers will always be loyal to them, rather than seeing a bigger picture. The rest of us do not have this narrow luxury. Even Mr Day might ponder the possible triumph that Akihito's visit might have been.

Suppose that British diplomatic effort had been mobilised to persuade Toyota to manufacture in Derby its Prius model, which halves petrol consumption and virtually eliminates the urban pollution that Mr Day was so anxious to combat in South London, and that this had been announced on the state visit. That would have been good for jobs, for the environment and for Anglo-Japanese relations.

# Jakarta's first family holds on in the wake of the president

Suharto's dynasty still holds key influence, writes David Watts

Not for former President Suharto the midnight flight to a Riviera hideaway. He and his multi-millionaire children show no sign of leaving their Jakarta homes, in the wake of his resignation.

"First and foremost he is a nationalist," said an Indonesian businessman. "He will not take the Hawaiian option. When he goes out to play golf and go fishing he will do it in Indonesia."

The first family have certainly enriched themselves on a vast scale but they, by and large, have not emulated the late leader of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, who sailed away millions which benefited no one but his family.

There are 2,500 Indonesian firms with first-family or crony links, 30-40 of which are listed companies. There are believed to be Swiss bank accounts and the Suharto family has strong links with Swiss banks and firms which include Nestlé and Ciba Geigy.

Opposition sources say they believe that the former president made two visits to Swiss banks last year, the first after a health check in Germany and the second after the Asia-Pacific Co-operation summit in Vancouver last November, when he stopped off in Zurich on the way to Saudi Arabia. There are also strong family links with Swiss construction and cement firms.

Despite the evidence, there are few demands in Indonesia for an audit. Even respected economic figures in the new cabinet have strong ties with Indonesian companies and the new leader President Jusuf Habibie is linked with more than 30.

His brother Effendi "Fanny" Habibie, the former ambassador to London, was until this week chairman of the Batam Development Author-



Observers fear calamity in Indonesia if the financial empire of the former president Suharto, left, and his relatives unravels

ity, a highly successful export development zone on an island off Singapore. He announced his resignation to remove the appearance of nepotism.

The Suharto family's wealth is generally reckoned to be 85 per cent in the country and locked up in infrastructure projects. A witch-hunt now could unravel the thread of a tapestry that is so vast it holds the economy together. From expressway tolls to hotels, to transport and television, first family money is everywhere and often, in partnership with foreign money, in perfectly legitimate deals.

"If you pull it apart you will undo the whole fabric of society," said an Indonesian businessman. "And that is the last thing the economy needs at the moment. For the present this country really needs to forget about politics and concentrate on getting the economy back in good health. We are not talking about billions

in gold, we are talking about hundreds of productive companies and the creation of cartels and the skimming off of money from them.

"Within the context of the times these were legal deals. They may not have been morally right but if you break them up hundreds of thousands of people will lose their jobs."

"In this country we may have corruption but at least it works. The toll road gets built and the cars can run along it," said Arian Ardie, vice-president of PT Indokor Indonesia, a trading company. And, as the cars run the president's daughter, Tutut, creams off the tolls which total about 7,000 rupiah (70p) for every one heading into the city. Most visitors will also ride in a taxi owned by a first family or crony firm and when they are dropped off at a downtown hotel, it will be linked with a Suharto family member.

Tutut was once tipped to succeed her father as president and she has the requisite ambition. She is involved in about 100 companies, a trading company and has a stake in Bank Central Asia, which is the country's largest lender and has recently run into severe liquidity problems.

Tutut also has a licence to supply aircraft parts to the state airline Garuda and its domestic spin-off Merpati.

Standing diagonally opposite the British Embassy on Jakarta's equivalent of Oxford Street - Jalam Thamrin - is the Grand Hyatt. Even your taxi-driver can tell you that it is part-owned by the former president's second son Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra, aged 35.

The journal *Asiaweek* puts Tommy's wealth at \$600 million (£370 million). He has 60 per cent of the Humpuss

Group a conglomerate of some 70 firms that range from telecommunications to a monopoly on the supply of doves for producing Indonesia's favourite cigarettes and an exclusive right to transport the products of the state oil company Pertamina.

The Government has this week announced that it will review the contracts on the ground that they unnecessarily add to the cost of importing crude into Indonesia.

Tommy's elder brother Bambang Trihatmodjo, aged 44, has interests in cars in an empire reckoned to be worth \$4.5 billion, at least before the calamitous dive in the value of the rupiah.

Like Tutut's expressway - built with borrowed dollars when the exchange rate was at 2,500 to the dollar before the start of the slide last July - Bambang and other family members will be nursing dollar loans which

they can no longer service with the current exchange rate, in the range of 10,000 to the dollar.

His quoted Bimantara empire has started, belatedly, to try and involve the employees more in the running of the company and, with its value standing at roughly a fifth of its pre-slide worth, he will need all the help he can get.

One of the principal Suharto family methods of dispensing patronage and keeping peace among his supporters and the army are a series of non-profit foundations which are funded by export levies and the like. In particular, they help fund the one organisation that is a truly national and unifying force - the army.

It has a multiracial, multi-confessional role and provides both social and military services to the nation - the so-called dual function. It is the only organisation which, in the absence of political parties, is to be found in all parts of the 14,000 island archipelago, where it provides the only source of food, earthquake and famine relief. To cut off such funding would have a devastating social effect across the country.

These foundations channel money for a whole variety of off-budget activities which include the purchase of equipment for the military such as advanced radio and communications equipment. The money is also used to keep the officer corps happy and in the barracks rather than taking part in overt political activities.

An important element, too, is the funding for members of the Strategic and Special Forces, with generals' salaries only £90 per month.

A key supplier of funds for this line of activity has been the first third-generation Suharto family member to go into business.

Ari Haryo Wibowo Sigit, aged 27, the former president's grandson, who is reported to be worth \$500 million, came up with the ultimate money-making scheme until his father put a stop to it - an exclusive deal to supply millions of Indonesian schoolchildren with shoes.

# Cookie tasting is the future of market research

The supermarket loyalty card is one of the simplest and most successful marketing devices ever devised. The cards let supermarket groups monitor who their customers are, when they shop and what they buy.

But businesses are now being offered much more powerful market research tools if they get their customers online. The ability of computers to track their users is being used by a growing number of electronic market research companies to compile frighteningly accurate profiles of those shopping or even fishing for information on the Internet.

One company, Andromedia, based in San Francisco, boasts that its software can even make commercial sense out of running websites that attract no revenues in other words, most websites.

Visitors to most websites unknowingly receive a so-called "cookie". This is a computer file automatically downloaded onto your hard disk drive by a website.

It stores information about what you look at on the website, at what time, and for how long. Every time you go back, the website looks at the cookie, and remembers who you are and where you have been before.

Colgate, one of Andromedia's clients, uses software based on cookies to conduct market research on its toothpaste products and bases its advertising campaigns on what subjects its visitors have shown most interest in.

Another tactic used by Andromedia is to create several different home pages for a company. When Internet users click on an online advert they get sent to a particular home page. This lets companies know which adverts have worked.

The most sophisticated use of market research software is

when a company's website learns about you while you use it. For example, if you go to an online bookstore and spend all your time in the crime fiction department, the website will put up adverts for crime fiction. If you fail to make a purchase it may offer you a discount on books in your favourite genre.

Although most market research methods have a reputation for being based on a kind of voodoo science, the Internet takes away the need to make guesses and estimates. If companies are open about the way they get information about their potential customers online, the techniques used by businesses such as Andromedia should benefit everyone.



NEARLY a million UK homes will soon have access to video-on-demand and CD-quality audio delivered over the UK's cable network at up to 100 times the speed of telephone lines. The new service will be provided by a partnership between Home networks, the Californian distributor of high-speed interactive services, and ComTel, the UK cable operator.

THE staggering investment in information technology made by European banks because of the millennium bug and EMU will not be sustainable after the year 2000, according to a report out this week from DataMonitor.

CHRIS AYRES

# Side show

SIR Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI, may have had a bumpy ride at his music business recently, what with the Seagram bid falling to materialise and top music man Jim Fifield wandering off with £12.4 million in compensation. But Sir Colin is not being distracted by his other tricky little assignment - the chairmanship of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

"I look at it as a £50 million subsidiary. The whole art of the thing is to get good people to run it," says Sir Colin, who like Gerry Robinson, the Granada chairman at the Arts

Council, is clearly a believer in applying the firm smack of business principles to the arts.

I NEVER knew this, and I don't suppose you did either, but the man who started the First World War belonged to a Bulgarian-inspired Macedonian terrorist organisation with an oddly familiar name. The shot in Sarajevo that echoed around the world was fired by Gavrilo Princip, a member of a group called IMRO.

## Bare figures

MONEYWORLD is a computerised, online provider of advice on personal finance available on the Worldwide Web. It is, I am sure, a blameless organisation created for the most worthy of motives and with a private life quite unblemished by scandal. In America, of course, the address would be moneyworld.com. But this site is already occupied by a less reputable organisation, and is used as an extremely graphic advertising billboard for the sort of material, "live from Amsterdam", that it provides to interested subscribers. The two Website addresses are easy to confuse, indeed, several potential Moneyworld subscribers have already done just that. The truth is that the site was originally used by a Seattle share tipping operation, until Moneyworld of the UK complained



## Shopping trip

A COUPLE of vignettes from the seamy side of life. Lesley Worsfold is manager of Safeway's store in Holloway, North London, a "fairly rough area. King's Cross is just up the road." Her words, so don't blame me, I'm from South London anyway. The store has an unusual way of combating the local drug trade. "We have blue lights in the toilets to stop druggies from shooting up, so they can't find their veins." Charming. Also worried about drugs is EDS, the American computer firm, which has found a number of used syringes

abandoned in the car park, according to a memo leaked to *Computer Week* the trade magazine.

Although the company is insisting that its staff are not all shooting up in the car park, the memo concedes there are only three possibilities, none too appealing. Intruders are breaching security; contractors are bringing drugs in with them. "I won't dwell on the third alternative," says the company's health and safety officer.

THERE can be few stranger City documents than the Saatchi & Saatchi annual report. Once past the message from Kevin Roberts, the chief executive famed for once shooting a vending machine at a conference, pick your way through the arty photography and typography for the surrealism that is page 11. The picture of Wendy Smyth, finance director, is cut in half; the other half belongs to Bill Cochrane, the network finance director based in New York. Some subliminal message in this odd hybrid? Wendy only works part-time.

## Brought to book

MORE news of *Citizens Financial Futures*, the anodyne-sounding academic study that was derailed by terrible threats of legal action from the Knight Williams board on Tuesday. The board objected to a chapter on the company's collapse alleging that it, or parts of it, were defamatory, although no one has yet explained satisfactorily just what the problem is. Kate Trew, the book's editor, says the book is now

"temporarily on hold" while legal advice is taken. She is no clearer than I am on just what the directors are complaining about. She merely received a "sweeping statement" from Lowell White. During the solicitors, that ordered her to withdraw the book from publication.

It does raise the question whether this is an ingenious extension of the existing libel laws to flatten legitimate comment on any given subject. We are objecting to something you plan to say. We will not say what, so we suggest you leave it all out to be on the safe side. It is perhaps not surprising that a small academic publisher should back down in the light of such threats, but it is disturbing anyway.

MARTIN WALLER



"I've got this great idea for a blues record"



Sir Colin Southgate says the Royal Opera House is like a subsidiary

BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Ofgas clears Eastern Natural Gas of fraud

EASTERN NATURAL GAS was yesterday cleared of fraudulent behaviour by the gas regulator after an investigation into doorstep selling. The inquiry by Ofgas came after complaints of aggressive sales tactics in regions where households can shop around for gas supplies. Eastern, part of The Energy Group, has reduced the number of sales agencies it uses from 13 to four and is reviewing the payment methods available to customers in northwest England.

ANZ shrugs off crisis

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand Banking Group, the Australian bank most exposed to the Asian economic crisis, reported an 8 per cent rise in its first-half profit to March 31. Higher earnings from ANZ's Australian banking operations and a jump in foreign exchange earnings helped offset higher charges from doubtful debts in Asia. Net profit before abnormal costs rose 8 per cent to \$625 million (£238 million) and ANZ set an interim dividend of 24 cents (£2.28).

European Leisure sale

EUROPEAN LEISURE has sold six venues in its bars and discotheque division for £1.075 million and the money will be invested in new Cue Sports bars. The company said it has opened its 75th Cue Sports bar, an 11,000 square foot venue in Shepherds Bush, West London, and hopes to open a minimum of 10 more by the end of 1998. Ian Rock, the chief executive, added that the company's Cue Sports bars "should see additional benefit from the World Cup".

Birchin back in black

BIRCHIN INTERNATIONAL, the conference centre group, turned in a profit of £282,000 in the six months to March 31, a recovery from a loss previously of £293,000. Turnover rose to £3 million from £188,000. The group has sold its Rushmere Wynne publishing business to concentrate on core business. The company owns Eynsham Hall in Oxfordshire and Chewton Place near Bath and last month acquired Swinton Castle. Shares rose from 14 p to 1 1/2 p and there is no dividend.

Lewis caution on sales

JOHN LEWIS OF HUNGERFORD, the AIM-listed kitchens and furniture manufacturer, said yesterday that it remained cautious on the level of sales and profits for the second half of the current financial year. John Lewis, the chairman, said that trading in recent months had been "significantly more challenging than earlier in the year". First-half pre-tax profits fell from £176,000 to £162,000 on sales up from £1 million to £1.4 million. Shares were unchanged at 24p.

Whitecroft's warning

SHARES in Whitecroft, the diversified industrial group, fell 2 1/2 p to 86p after the company said that a sharp downturn in specialist materials had led to annual profits falling below expectations. The division's profits were expected to be £400,000 against £2.6 million last year. It said the lighting and building products divisions had returned strong performances. Group profits are expected to be about £4.9 million (£6.7 million), against a forecast of £6.8 million.

Davies backs plan for Isa standard

HOWARD DAVIES, the chairman of the Finance Services Authority (FSA), the new super regulator, yesterday gave his support to a Government initiative to benchmark financial services products.

In a speech at the annual Building Societies Association Conference, Mr Davies said that plans for the so-called Catmarks would stimulate a lot of debate. He said that Catmarks would set the industry benchmarks on price and flexibility.

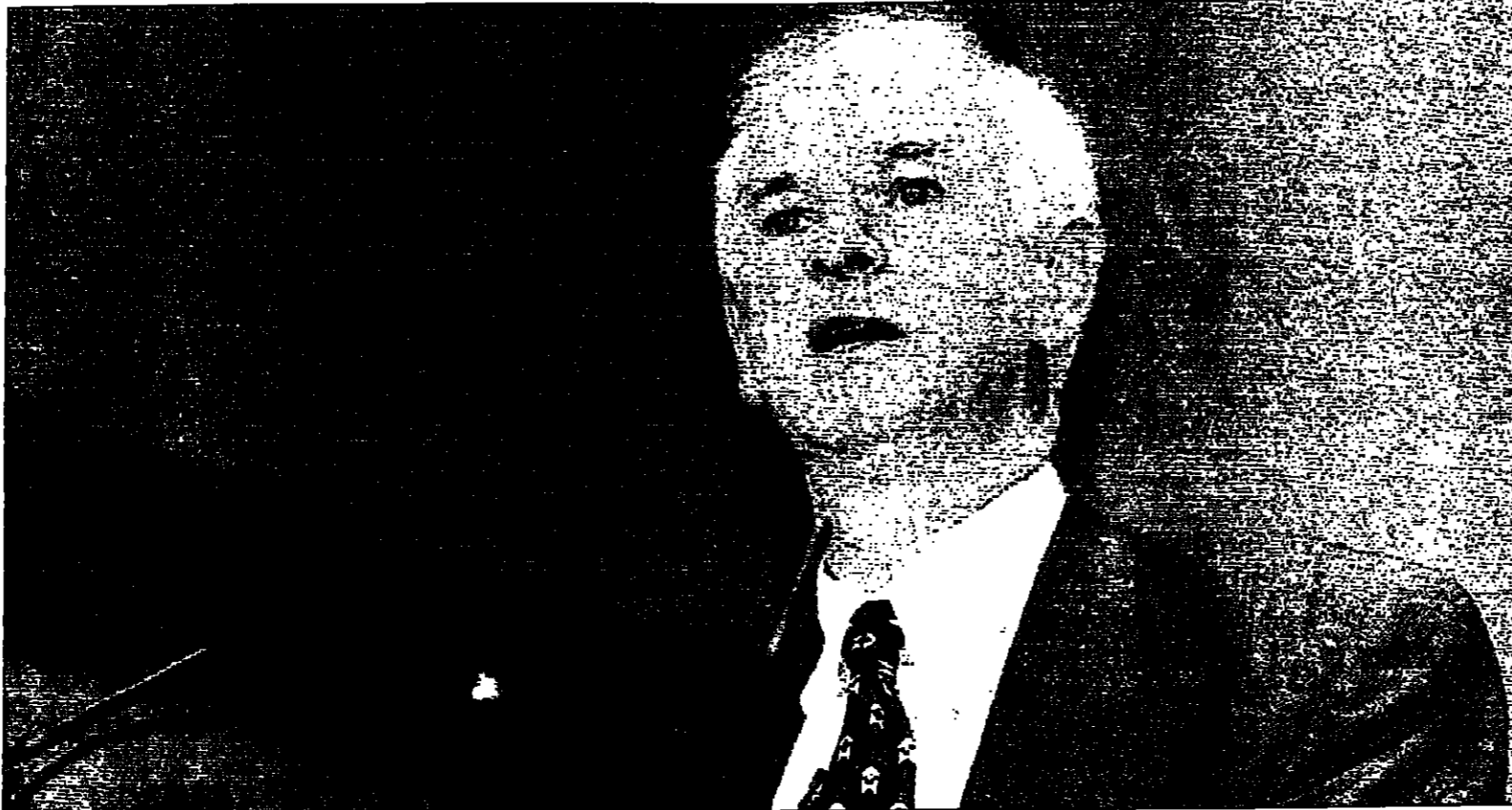
Last week, the Government unveiled plans to apply a standard to financial products, in particular the Individual Savings Accounts (Isa), the tax-free replacement for personal equity plans and tax-exempt special savings accounts. Under the benchmark proposals products will have to be accessible, cheap and offer good terms to savers. The Government aim is to encourage the millions who do not save to put money away into the new Isa.

The plans have attracted a deluge of criticism from the industry, because most of the products in existence will not make the grade. They are too inflexible but, more importantly, are too expensive.

Mr Davies said that the FSA plans to release proposals in the next few weeks concerning the regulation of Isas in relation to the new Catmarks. He said that Catmarks amounted to indirect regulation of products. Mr Davies added that there would be an inevitable drop in charges as a result, which he said was a laudable aim.

The FSA chairman also supported the building societies' movement in general. The societies will come under full regulation of the FSA by the millennium. "We see no loss of the distinctive brand offered by building societies," Mr Davies said.

Reports by Caroline Merrell



Howard Davies, the FSA chairman, said Catmarks amount to indirect regulation of products and welcomed an inevitable drop in charges as a result

MPC troubled by conflicting housing price inflation data

MERVYN KING, deputy governor of the Bank of England, admitted yesterday that measuring the rate of house price rises was one of the thorniest problems facing the Monetary Policy Committee when it came to setting interest rates.

The two-monthly indices used to measure house prices, one from the Nationwide Building Society and one from the Halifax, now show substantially different rates of house price inflation.

As Mr King pointed out yesterday, according to the most recently published data house prices as measured by the Nationwide rose by 12 per cent in the year to April, 1998, whereas according to the Halifax, they rose by only 5.6 per cent.

Speaking at the Building Societies Association's annual conference in Bournemouth, Mr King admitted that the bank had spent a lot of time and energy trying to find out why the estimates of house price inflation differed so radically.

The difference between the rates means that gross house-

hold wealth in the year to April, 1998, rose by £80 billion more using the Nationwide figures in comparison with the Halifax figures.

The Bank of England claimed the difference between the two indices was because the figures were ad-

justed to take account of the varying characteristics of the houses bought and sold each month.

For instance, new houses may show more volatility in their prices than existing property. In an effort to try to resolve the problems caused

by the differing indices, the Bank of England now uses figures from the Land Registry in assessing house price movements. According to the latest of these figures, prices in the year to the end of 1997 rose by 9 per cent - this compares with figures of 6.9 per cent

from the Halifax and 12.9 per cent from the Nationwide.

The Nationwide yesterday defended its statistics by saying that it too based its index on the Land Registry prices. The society pointed out that the Halifax system gave more weight to the less buoyant north of the country than the Nationwide figures. Nationwide however, added that its figures did not include those people who bought houses without using a mortgage.

Mr King said: "I would not want to claim in any way that we at the bank have found the true measure of house price inflation. Rather, the bank estimate was developed in the spirit of trying to give some guidance to the members of the MPC on the relative weights they should attach to the conflicting pictures painted by the Halifax and Nationwide indices."

He added: "The house price index constructed by the Department of Environment, Transport, and the Regions is helpful. But further work is required on this issue, which is of importance to us all."

Nationwide unveils range of mutuality sweeteners

NATIONWIDE, the UK's biggest building society, yesterday unveiled a package of services to emphasise the advantages of remaining mutual.

The measures involve removing 30 service fees in its banking, savings, mortgages and insurance products at a cost to the society of about £12 million a year.

The move comes as the Nationwide faces a crucial poll on its future. Next month its 4.5 million members will be asked to vote on whether

the society should follow the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester and convert into a bank.

From June 1, the society is scrapping all ATM charges. This gives Nationwide customers access to 15,000 cash machines free of charge. Some of the high street banks charge customers as much as 60p for using ATMs.

Nationwide will also no longer charge its customers for stopping cheques or sending duplicate statements. The society is also removing

fees for redeeming a standard mortgage or producing title deeds. These services can cost between £35 and £85.

Brian Davis, Nationwide's chief executive, said: "Every bank and building society has customers who are irritated by one service fee or another. "As a building society we are not driven to maximise the profit we make out of our customers at every turn."

"From June 1 everyday requests like stopping a cheque will be part of the service we offer customers."

ACCOUNTANCY

Make audits socially responsible

A company's accounts are of interest not just to itself, Lord Paul says

By any measure, accountancy is a major industry. The UK accountancy and auditing market is estimated to be worth £7.5 billion. About half this income is made by the Big Six firms that dominate the industry. Much of the social visibility of the firms is due to the fact that they enjoy a state-guaranteed market for external audits. For example, after the Companies Act 1985, most limited liability companies are required to have an audit by an accountant belonging to a recognised accountancy body. However, after the House of Lords decision in Caparo Industries v Dickman & Others (1990), auditors owe a "duty of care" only to the company. They do not owe a duty of care to any individual, present or potential shareholder, creditor, employee, pension scheme member, bank depositor or other stakeholder. No one can sell a packet of sweets without owing a duty of care to current and potential consumers. All products and services have to be "fit for use". However, millions of people are expected to invest their pensions, savings and investments in companies whose auditors owe them no duty of care. Company directors can be held personally liable for publishing false and mislead-



Lord Paul considers auditors' "duty of care" too narrow

ing accounts. Yet the same does not apply to auditors. Anyone contemplating investment naturally turns to published company accounts for information, but the value of this information is considerably diminished by the absence of a duty of care upon auditors. The public policy aspects of auditor duty were clearly stated by Lord Denning in his dissenting judgment in Candler v Crane Christmas (1951). Lord Denning said: "The law would fail to serve the best interests of the community if it should hold that accountants and auditors owe a duty to no one but to their client. There is a great difference between the lawyer and the accountant. The lawyer is never called on to express his personal belief in the truth of his client's case, whereas the accountant, who certifies the accounts of his client, is always called upon to express his personal opinion... and he is required to do this not so much for the satisfaction of his own client, but more for the guidance of shareholders, investors, revenue authorities and others, who may have to rely on the accounts in serious matters of business. In my opinion, accountants owe a duty of care not only to their clients, but also to all those whom they know will rely on their accounts in

Government to enact legislation restoring the original intention of the Companies Act and empowering stakeholders. In recent years, the Government has given additional liability concessions to auditors. For example, following the Companies Act 1989, auditing firms can trade through limited liability companies. At the industry's behest, the Government introduced Section 137 of the Companies Act 1989 (to amend Section 310 of the 1985 Act) to enable companies to buy insurance for their auditors. The Government also asked the Law Commission to study the possibility of introducing "full proportional liability". It is now committed to introduce Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) legislation, giving further liability protection to audit firm partners. These concessions to the auditing industry have not been matched by any recognition of the rights of audit consumers.

As the Government contemplates publishing a consultation document on LLPs, it should take an opportunity to reverse the Caparo judgment and require that auditors owe a duty of care to individuals who are shareholders, creditors or employees at the date of the audit report. Without such reform, ordinary people are unlikely to be enthusiastic about the Government's proposals for portable pensions.

The Caparo judgment should have persuaded the

like footing will save them from bankruptcy. But lawyers are different. There is a section on "Firms in Trouble", which provides a check-list of warning signs. For accountants the warning signs might be the red ink on a bank statement. Not so for lawyers. "Have you lost all interest in golf, football, bridge?" is one. "Have the bags under your eyes got bigger?" is another. It is a good job that Carey Street is just around the corner from the Law Society.

ROBERT BRUCE

Brave new world or fools' paradise?

IT IS ALL OVER bar the shouting. At least, that is what Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand believe after their proposed merger finally achieved regulatory approval from the European Commission last week. The way is now set clear for a formalised merger to take effect from July 1. On that date the largest professional services firm the world has ever seen will come into existence. Annual revenues will be upwards of \$13 billion (£8 billion). There will be 8,500 partners, and a total workforce of 135,000 with offices in 140 countries. It is a very long way indeed from the accountancy firms of even a decade ago. But despite the European Commission's decision to wave the merger through, there will still be serious worries about the firm's domination of the world's professional services market. There is, of course, no global regulatory body. In America, the merged firm will audit 35 of the Fortune top 100 companies. In the UK the firm will audit 45 of the FTSE 100. But the crucial figures, revealed in a survey in Accountancy magazine this week, show quite how much of the world market the new firm will have. On the Accountancy figures, the merged firm will audit almost twice as many of the world's top 100 companies by market capitalisation as its nearest rival, Price Waterhouse currently has 23 of those audits. Combine that with the 18.5 companies that Coopers & Lybrand audits, and you have the new firm auditing 41.5 of the world's top 100 companies. That is almost double the number audited by its nearest rival, KPMG, which has 21.5 audits. Ernst & Young has 15. The merged firm has said all along that this creates no problems. "The notion of conflicts of interest is a flawed one," is the line that the firm has tended to take. It argues that a culture and lengthy history of independence and integrity is enough, and that the Big Six accounting firms were moving towards imbalance and that the relative fee incomes of the Big Five will level the competitive landscape. It is early days to assess this. One thing is certain: clients will find it harder rather than easier. Existing clients may find that they receive a better service from a firm that has geared up to a greater global presence. But clients at the global level tend to use all the firms for different services. The audit may go to one firm, tax consultancy to another, change management projects to a third, and so on. Having

more, rather than fewer, firms to choose for specialist tasks is something that any finance director prefers. The chemistry of advisers and advised becomes harder when there are only five to choose from.

The other problem comes from outside the professional world. The firms are more visible. If this merger and the abortive attempt by KPMG and Ernst & Young to get together have achieved anything, it has been to get the world's regulatory authorities to sit up with a start. The full scale of the growth of the accountancy business had not really been appreciated before. People had noticed that accountants were in all sorts of disciplines now and they had heard vaguely that 20 per cent a year was the sort of growth that they were enjoying. But the scale of it had escaped them. Accountancy firms, however well they are doing, are still accountancy firms, the perception remained. They were not outlets that would bother the rest of us. But now they do. It will be easy to discover that as a result of

waking up the world to the scale and dominance of their business, the firms will start to be cast as villains, rather than as the useful oil of business and corporate machinery. In the meantime, although it may all be over bar the shouting, there is likely to be an awful lot of shouting still to come. It was no coincidence that the news of Brussels's approval was followed almost immediately by the news from the wily Arthur Andersen that it was in talks with Coopers in Brazil. This follows a long line of tales of defections of Coopers in Chile and Costa Rica and mutterings of great unrest elsewhere. Most of the various affiliate firms may have tied into the merger. But that doesn't mean that talented staff may not decide that a change of scene is needed.

It all comes back to the extraordinary figures behind this merger. How do you know that you have got all 8,500 partners facing roughly in the same direction, with the same commitment to fund the global firm's growth in far-off new markets, and to support the broad philosophy laid down? The answer is that you cannot know any of that for certain. No one has ever done this before. When it comes down to the simple management issues behind this merger, there must be any number of senior partners around the world who are wondering whether what they have done is brave, or whether it is foolish.



ROBERT BRUCE

Some pre-merger mumbo-jumbo

IT MUST be a bit like the bad old days of accounting in government departments. If you haven't spent your budget before a given date, it vanishes. As a result, all sorts of expensive schemes gain last-minute funding. It certainly looks like that at Coopers & Lybrand. They are five weeks away from a full merger with Price Waterhouse and yet massive advertising campaigns are being launched by the firm on an almost weekly

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

basis. Among the campaigns, cryptic corporate finance posters are springing up. One of these, which is intended to publicise management buyouts, is thought by many at Price Waterhouse to reveal the proposed new name for the combined firm: "MUMBO", it reads.

Rake's progress

MIKE RAKE, senior partner-elect in KPMG, is reckoned

by most to be a charming and lovely bloke. However, he is not thought, even by his closest friends, to be a whiz at tax. So imagine everyone's surprise on casting their eyes down the official guest-list at the Chartered Institute of Taxation's annual reception. "Rake, Michael", it read. "Senior Tax Partner, KPMG". There are suggestions that he is about to give all his fellow partners a hand with their self-assessment.

Legal advice

LAWYERS are finding that accounting is the key to their survival. That was the message at the launch of a new self-help guide for them that the Law Society has produced. All law firms with fewer than ten partners are about to receive a copy of Cashflow and Improved Financial Management, by Andrew Onerburn, in the hope that putting their practices on a more business-

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Whitecroft's warning



Arjo signs £8.9 to acquire Cop

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# Legal & General makes £316m on Australian sale

By SUSAN EMMETT

LEGAL & GENERAL yesterday announced it will make a pre-tax profit of £316 million from the £333 million sale of its Australian subsidiary to Colonial, a local banking and insurance group.

Insurance analysts welcomed the news as a positive deal for the UK life insurer. They said Legal & General received a good price from Colonial, which is issuing 207.5 million shares via an underwritten placement. The sale is expected to enable the company to concentrate on its UK and European activities.

David Prosser, Legal & General group chief executive, said: "Legal & General Australia is a business with many strengths which has performed well in recent years."

"However, consolidation is taking place in the Australian marketplace and we believe that our shareholders are best served by exiting that market."

"We consider that a fair price has been achieved for the business."

Australian regulatory approval is expected by June 30 and sale completion is scheduled for July 1.

Legal & General said that after debt repayment, the cash will be used to further the company's growth strategy.

City observers suggested that the deal, advised by Schroders, may encourage other UK insurers to leave the Australian market.

They said tight regulation and tough competition dominated by domestic players such as Australian Mutual Provident (AMP) and National Mutual, meant UK life insurers had consistently failed to achieve critical mass.

One City analyst said: "The Australian market is not a good market to be in. This looks like an opportune time to exit it."

He noted that, although Australia has a compulsory pensions scheme, which boosts demand for life products, margins are "non-existent" due to the tough regulatory regime.

For the year to December 31, Legal & General Australia (L&GA), a mid-sized company employing 600 people, had a premium income of £193 million. Net assets of L&GA at the end of last year were £47 million.

It contributed an operating profit before tax of £15.9 million to the group's overall gross profit of £349.6 million last year.



Placing bonanza: Neil Taylor, left, Nicholas Warran-Smith, finance director, and Paul Lloyd-Roach, chief executive

# Game valued at £148m for float

By CHRIS AVRES

GAME, the computer games retailer, will be valued at £148 million when it floats on the Stock Exchange next month - nearly £50 million more than originally expected.

Three brothers, led by Neil Taylor, the company's chairman, will share £33 million

when the company floats. They will sell around half their existing 48.6 per cent stake in the company.

Game's three existing institutional shareholders - Charterhouse, Foreign & Colonial and Lloyds Development Capital - will also sell around half their stakes in the float. The placing, which has

been sponsored by HSBC Investment Bank, will be priced at 200p per share, to raise £79 million. Dealings are set to begin on June 3.

Mr Taylor said: "We have been very pleased with the response of institutional shareholders to the company and its strategy and look forward to developing the

business with the benefit of the enhanced capital structure that is now in place."

Game, which opened its 66th store in Cheltenham last Saturday, will raise £8.5 million of new money through the placing to fund expansion plans. The company aims to expand its chain to 120 stores in the next three years.

# Watchdog leads fight against junk faxes

By GEORGE SIVELL

DAVID EDMONDS, the Director-General of Telecommunications, yesterday gave consumers more power to prevent companies sending them junk faxes.

The telecommunications services licence that forces most companies to remove from their marketing list the names of people who have asked not to be sent faxes is to be extended. It will now include companies that con-

tract faxing out to a third party.

Mr Edmonds also issued a final order to the British Fax Directory forcing the organisation to stop calling ranges of numbers automatically to identify and record a fax machine number.

Mr Edmonds said: "Automatic number searches have been a nuisance to many organisations. I want to put a stop to this."

# Tomb Raider helps Eidos to £16m profit

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Eidos fell 97½p to £11.65 after the information technology group, best known for its Tomb Raider game, reported a pre-tax profit of £16.5 million for the year to March 31, against a previous loss of £6.8 million.

Sales of the group, responsible for the games icon Lara Croft, rose from £75.5 million to £137.2 million. Earnings were 64½p, against a loss of 59.5p. Brokers had expected profits of between £15 million

and £21 million, but the pre-tax figure was struck after charging an exceptional £1.9 million in the final quarter from the closure of Naked Records and the sale of Simis, the flight simulator unit.

In the fourth quarter pre-tax profits were £3.5 million, against a loss of £1.65 million.

Ian Livingstone, chairman of Eidos, said: "Deathtrap Dungeon, the original Tomb Raider on Sony's platinum range and our new premier collec-

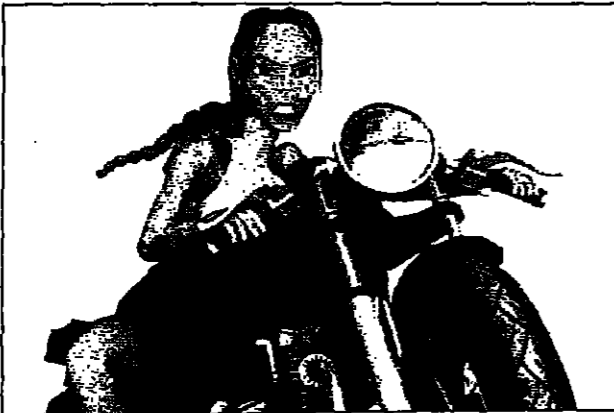
tion are proving a great success. There will be two new titles towards the end of the quarter, Dominion Storm and Final Fantasy VII.

"Looking ahead to the end of this financial year we believe Eidos has one of the most enviable product line-ups in the business." The Tomb Raider franchise "goes from strength to strength and, because of its high global profile, has the potential to generate increasingly high levels of revenue."

Charles Cornwall, the chief executive, said: "Given that this year also saw the company adopt the most prudent accounting policy in the industry in respect of software development, which meant an additional charge of £6.1 million for research and development, the turnaround from 1997 is a great deal more than pleasing."

Mr Livingstone said he hoped the appointment of new and independent non-executive directors would be made soon.

Once again there is no dividend.



Sales booster: Lara Croft now has a global profile

# Arjo signs £8.9m deal to acquire Copigraph

By OUR CITY STAFF

ARJO Wiggins Appten, the paper and packaging group, has signed an agreement to buy Copigraph from Bollere for £8.9 million (£90 million). Copigraph, which specialises in the coating of carbonless paper and produces 40,000 tonnes a year, recorded turnover of Fr436 million in 1997.

Philippe Beylier, AWA chief executive, said: "For the last few years we have been successfully implementing a re-

structuring plan to improve the manufacturing efficiency and competitiveness of our European carbonless business. Since the plan was launched in 1995, productivity has increased by 25 per cent and our business has returned to profit."

Arjo shares fell from 254p to 251½p. The company also called in Hoare Govett as joint stockbroker to act alongside Cazenove.

# Small firms lag behind in 'green' policy drive

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

MANY of Britain's managers have turned "green" but UK companies are failing to follow suit and adopt environmentally friendly strategies, according to a report out today.

Only half the organisations surveyed have a written green policy and in smaller firms, this proportion drops to 32 per cent. The findings come in a report by the Institute of Management and Electrolux UK.

Larger companies with more than 1,000 employees are far more likely to have taken up the green message and 74 per cent of them say they have a written policy on the need to clean up waste and prevent pollution.

Time and money are the main reasons given by managers for companies not going green. Fear of an immediate rise in costs and a long delay before rewards come in are given as reasons for not adopting green ideas. Sixty per cent of managers cite lack of time to investigate the issues.

Managers acknowledge the business benefits of a green approach, but fail to see the link with financial savings, which are regarded as the least likely benefit.

Roger Young, Institute of Management director-general, said: "Money spent on good environmental practice is an investment not a cost and will reap bottom-line benefits."



# Move into another dimension - create your own CDs.

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editing and copying audio just as quick and easy. The HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus is a new generation of re-writable drive. It means you can delete or replace files on CD just like a floppy - in fact it's the equivalent of up to 450 floppies! HP offers the complete solution with drive, software as well as a blank HP re-writable CD in the box.

Go for HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus and take a leap ahead. Into another dimension. For your nearest stockist call 0990 474747.

# Swiss set to sever franc link with gold

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

THE Swiss Federal Government yesterday approved draft legislation that severs the Swiss franc's link with gold. The move will enable the Swiss National Bank to sell about 1,300 tonnes of gold, or half its reserves.

Switzerland is the last leading nation officially to link its currency with gold. The plan to revalue and gradually sell gold reserves requires parliamentary approval and amendment of the Swiss Constitution, endorsed by a referendum.

The Finance Ministry said the referendum would probably take place next year. According to the plan, the National Bank could revalue its 2,590 tonnes of gold reserves to about 60 per cent of the current market price.

The SNB's gold reserves are currently valued at a fixed price, spent out by the Swiss constitution, of SF4,595 (£1,875) per kilo, roughly a third of the market price.

In a summary of the draft legislation, the Government said the world's abandonment of the outdated tie between gold and currency meant the link could safely be removed.

"This makes possible a more flexible use of National Bank gold reserves," the summary stated.



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30p THE TIMES

Football free zone

**FOOTBALL FREE ZONE.**

Look out for this sign from June 1st for your World Cup alternative.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

EQUITY PRICES

Losses in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, and ELECTRICITY.

Table of equity prices for sectors including ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, LEISURE & HOTELS, and MINING.

Table of equity prices for sectors including OTHER FINANCIAL, MEDIA, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, and WATER.

Birmingham welcomes 700,000 visitors to the International Motor Show. (Now, there's a city that's really motoring.) the nec Birmingham

Table of BRITISH FUNDS, including SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

Table of RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, and WATER.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices and details for various funds, including columns for fund name, price, and other financial metrics.

CHANEL Fine Jewellery advertisement featuring a diamond ring and text: 'JACQUARD' RINGS, YELLOW GOLD AND EMERALD, WHITE GOLD AND SAPPHIRE, BOTH SET WITH DIAMONDS. 793 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON W1 TEL 0171 499 0005

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# THE TIMES ARTS

POP  
Lighthouse family in concert  
PAGE 38



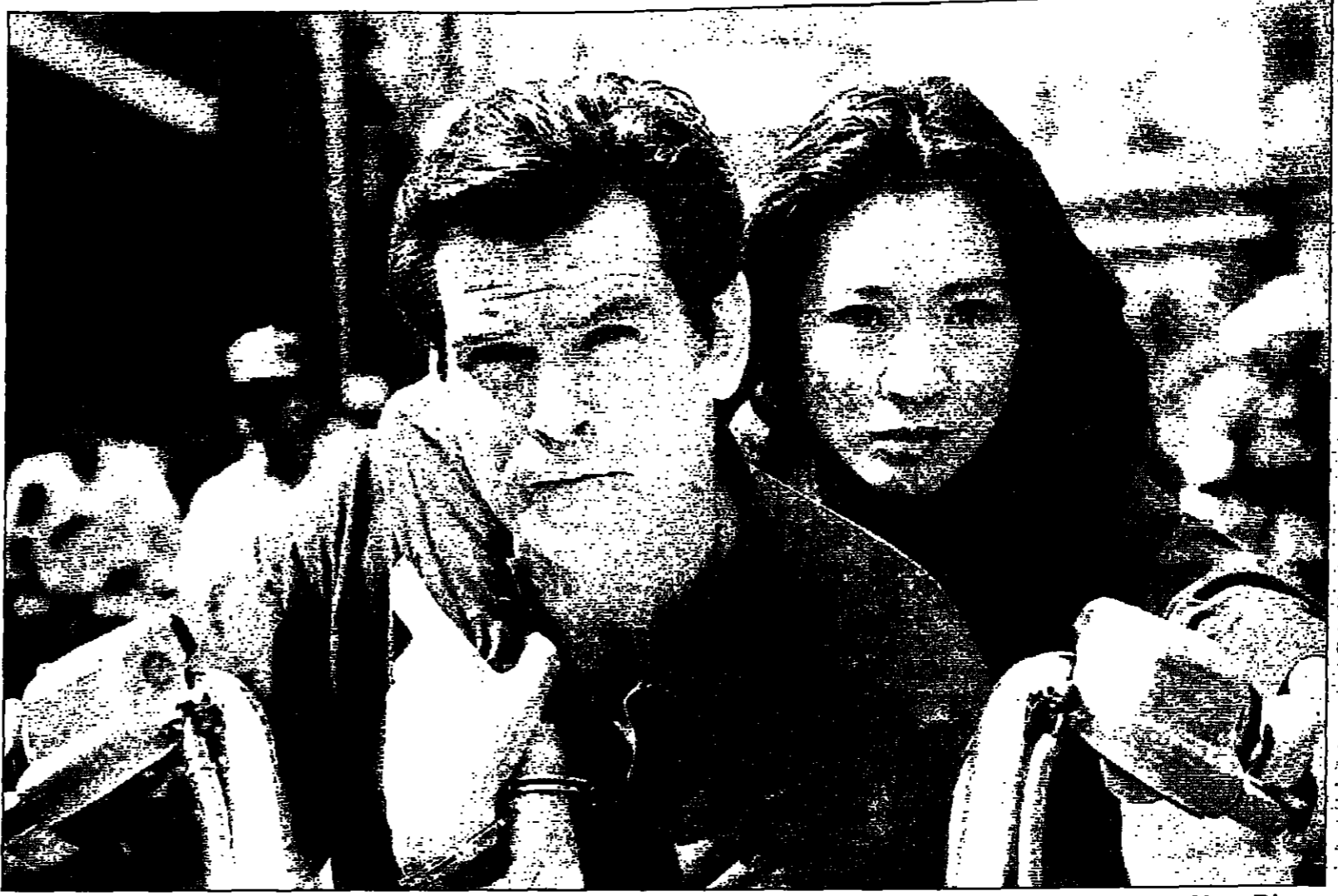
FILM  
Julie Christie never better  
FACING PAGE

## Licensed to kill some time

**TOMORROW NEVER DIES**  
MGM, 12, 1997  
PIERCE BROSNAN returns as 007, although something has happened to dull the twinkle that made *GoldenEye* such fun. Some juvenile dialogue does not help. The script takes us all over the place in pursuit of an evil media mogul, enjoyably played by Jonathan Pryce before his performance, too, gets stuck in a rut. The action set-pieces have some vim, while Hong Kong action star Michelle Yeoh and TV's Lois Lane, Teri Hatcher, provide the female decoration. Available to rent.

**NEW ON VIDEO**  
heroine, and Clifford Evans her agitator fiancé.  
**THE PEACEMAKER**  
CIC, 15, 1997  
A BIG, blustery movie from the director of *Deep Impact*. Mimi Leder. Half of it wants to rub your noses in the chaos of Eastern Europe. Another part wants to go Hollywood stargazing and serve up a rollercoaster ride of thrills. George Clooney and Nicole Kidman need to track down nine nuclear warheads, stolen somewhere in Russia. Kidman goes in hot pursuit in dresses by Calvin Klein, while Clooney acts the daredevil. The thrills are real enough, although the tussle between glamour and grit leaves the movie looking a bit dishevelled. Available to rent.

**LOVE ON THE DOLE**  
4 Front, PG, 1941  
LAY-OFFS, breadline living, police clashes: in many ways Walter Greenwood's Depression-era novel is a story for our time. It took the Second World War to make the material palatable for our film censors and director John Baxter, always a champion of the humble classes, rose to the challenge, movingly portraying the plight of one struggling Lancashire family. Deborah Kerr, then a fresh newcomer, is the forthright



Pierce Brosnan, in his second and less successful crack at playing James Bond, with Michelle Yeoh in a scene from *Tomorrow Never Dies*

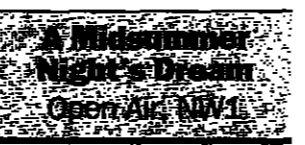
**THE STRANGE LOVE OF MARTHIA IVERS**  
Second Sight, 15  
A CLASSIC film noir opening — all staircases, cruelty and rain — leads into a ripping yarn of guilt, fear and desire, with one of Barbara Stanwyck's best performances as the cold tycoon with a criminal past. Notable too for Miklos Rozsa's agonised score.

GEOFF BROWN

**THEATRE:** A visually arresting Shakespeare revival in the park; immigrant conflicts explored in Hammersmith

## Fun and sex in fairyland

**NOBODY** should go to Regent's Park in search of the sort of weird investigation of the subconscious that Robert Lepage gave us when he staged his mudbath *Dream* at the National a few years ago. When the theatre's ceiling is the sky, and voices must compete with passing planes, the subtler varieties of magic are hard to achieve. But if you are content with a lively, visually arresting revival that intermittently inflates your smiles into chorles, then Rebecca Kavanaugh's recast version of the production she brought to NW1 last year makes it worth braving the muggles, the damp, or whatever else an English summer throws at you.



Bishop's luxuriant, less-than-Amazonian Hippolyta? But the lovers — Rebecca Johnson and Timothy Watson a vain, snotty Demetrius with a commission in the Athenian Hussars — have more character than usual. And Daniel Flynn's swaggering Oberon, with his pirate-king looks, and Nicola Duffett's brassy Titania are far from the stealthy androgynes of theatrical tradition.

True, that raises questions. Should there be so much sexual feeling in fairyland? Should the place be populated by a band of mischievous gypsies among whose purple-and-claret, exotically clad number is a podgy, bespectacled lady who looks as if she expects to be the next Dame Edna? Well, I don't see why

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

**HOW** long must immigrants wait before they feel they belong to their new country? My own great-grandparents never felt accepted, and the First World War really screwed them up, but at least they were Caucasians, so no one could tell the genes my parents carried. With a different skin colour the tug of blood takes longer to give up, and this conflict between past family and present community is the issue at the heart of Stephen Clark's play, written after improvisation work with Chinese actors.

## It's off to wok we go

Take Away  
Lyric Studio, W6

**MU-LAN** Theatre, the producing company, has just renewed its association with the Royal Court — an early production, *Porcelain*, transferred there — with the aim of encouraging young oriental writers. Odd, therefore, that Clark should be the chosen writer for the present production, but the deciding factor may have been his proven skills at making sense of diffuse material: he won an Olivier Award for rewriting the script of *Martin Guerre*.

Elsewhere the play is drily comic, as when the family sends up the notion of the wily oriental with a display of courteous cheating. There is pain in the horrible assault on Paul Chan's Allan, and no simple solution of the various conflicts, although Damien's expression of them hints at one way. The last words are spoken by Sweeney, whose quiet dignity has been spiced with an impish smile, and the silence that follows turns a knife in the heart.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FROM TOMORROW

THE TIMES THURSDAY  
Gene it's  
F...  
"Excellen...  
Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases.  
THE GENERAL  
Laura Brook, 19: The... black and white... the telling of... Excellent stuff.  
Dom Young, 19: This... much a film about... bles in Northern Ireland... portrait of a... Hood. Very enjoyable.  
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: Every aspect — the... performances and... could not be improved.  
Emma Ralph, 19: Brand...

هكذا من الأصل

# General consensus: it's dynamite

For more than 70 years, the title *The General* has referred to a wonderful film comedy by Buster Keaton: the one with the train and the Civil War. But now Keaton has a rival: a film as dynamic as any seen this year, or last, and a film that brings its director, John Boorman, roaring back into the top league after too many projects too strange or footling to make any decent impression (remember *Where the Heart Is* or *Beyond Rangoon*?) At Cannes on Sunday night, Boorman was awarded the Best Director prize. It could hardly be otherwise. For how could Martin Scorsese, the jury chairman, fail to respond to the film's sweep and gusto, the scenes of gang warfare, and the beady eye thrown on the complex character of Martin Cahill, the roistering criminal shot dead by the IRA in Dublin on August 18, 1994? As a film connoisseur, he must also have relished Boorman's daring use of black-and-white photography, which lends a touch of myth and enchantment to Dublin's dingy, cobbled streets.

Not that this is a fairytale. One of the most disconcerting elements in *The General* is the way audiences' feelings about Cahill are pulled this way and that. For much of the time, we are encouraged to enjoy the man's ingenuity and buffoonery, and his delight in kicking authority in the pants — the police, the Church, political parties of any stripe. But suddenly, Brendan Gleeson, Cahill's terrific impersonator, stops being a cheeky Robin Hood in an anorak, executing audacious robberies or trying to hide his face behind a bunch of splayed fingers. He becomes paranoid and a thug. Suspecting a gang member of being a traitor, he nails his hand to a snooker table, and we writhe as the victim writhes. It is only a matter of time, we know, before someone behaves as brutally to Cahill as he does to others.

Boorman's energetic direction propels the film forward along with Cahill, from childhood in the Hollyfield slums to a house in the middle-class suburbs with a wife, mistress, and motley children. Then comes the robbery too far: the theft of paintings from Sir Alfred Beit's home in Co Wicklow. Valuable artworks are tossed around in fields, but behind the laughs you can hear the bell tolling. While Cahill proves adept at dodging

## NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown salutes the film of the life of Martin Cahill, rebel and thief

**The General**  
Warner West End, 15.  
129 mins  
Cinematic dynamite from John Boorman

**Afterglow**  
Odeon Haymarket, 15.  
114 mins  
Julie Christie casts a spell

**Washington Square**  
Curzon Mayfair, PG.  
116 mins  
Henry James with lots of pretty pictures

**Dark City**  
Plaza, 15. 100 mins  
Claustrophobic and convoluted fantasy

**The James Gang**  
Warner West End, 15.  
99 mins  
Mood-hopping British crime caper

wives who need his aid; and in the elegance and wit of Rudolph's script and direction as his characters — a quartet of wives, husbands, and potential lovers — variously search for happiness.

True, not everything in the garden is rosy. Set and shot in Montreal, and produced by Robert Altman, Rudolph's first film since *Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle* was obviously made for a modest sum, and the arabesques of Rudolph's camera cry out for far more lavish sets than the bare hotel rooms and apartments we are actually offered. And there is no denying that Rudolph's brand of whimsy is an acquired taste: you need to feel happy drifting away from surface reality, into a special universe of the director's making. Yet time and again *Afterglow* vaults over its quirks and limitations, and knocks us flat with Rudolph's understanding of love, pain, and the whole messy business of human relations. The marriage of Christie and Nolte is glued together by bad memories, familiarity, and extramarital excursions. Nolte meets Lara Flynn Boyle, frustrated wife of a corporate climber with no time for her body. Christie, separately, meets Boyle's husband, Johnny Lee Miller (Sick Boy in *Trainspotting*). At first Rudolph treats the material lightly, but more and more anguish filters through; for all the artifice of Rudolph's manner, these characters suffer real hurts and bruises.

the increased surveillance ordered by Jon Voight's inspector (a well-judged performance, this), his gang starts to splinter. The end is nigh. Iconoclasts have always been up Boorman's street — he is one himself — and with Martin Cahill he finds an ideal vehicle for his thoughts about the lure and price of anarchy. *The General* also allows him to express his feelings for the Irish character; he has lived in Co Wicklow for many years. Indeed, in its buccaneering, apolitical way, the film tells us more about the island's rebel streak than any number of anguished political dramas about the Troubles. Welcome to Boorman's *The General*: a stick of celluloid dynamite.

"I haven't seen this splendour since *Bambi*," Julie Christie purrs in *Afterglow* as Jonny Lee Miller's car whisks her away to a Quebec chateau for a semi-romantic weekend. There is splendour indeed in Alan Rudolph's film, not least in Christie's Oscar-nominated performance as a former B-movie actress trapped in a haze of memories and regrets, as moving and deeply textured as any in her entire career. There is splendour in Nick Nolte, cast as Christie's husband, a handyman who enjoys servicing the lonely house-

the present director, seems swamped by the weight of words and props, and, apart from the odd little frisson, we simply gawp or yawn. Jennifer Jason Leigh, full of her usual tricks, is the heroine, Catherine. Sturdier performances come from the imported Brits, always essential in such fare: Albert Finney as the repressive Dr Sloper, Ben Chaplin as Catherine's wastrel suitor, and Maggie Smith, wizzering away as Aunt Lavinia. But for all their talent they are acting in a vacuum.

Visually, *Dark City* could not be more different. This is one of those maddening fantasies where sunlight is unknown, and characters scurry through ominous alleys and towering buildings. Characters such as Rufus Sewell's hero John, who comes to in a hotel room with a corpse alongside and a fine case of amnesia. His head gets no clearer when Kiefer Sutherland's Dr Schreiber, a limping madman, talks about aliens living in animated corpses, and memory manipulation. Sometimes in this heap of echoes from other films you can spot an interesting idea; but fashion dictates that Alex Proyas, director of that other nocturnal rigmarole *The Crow*, hurries forward with the special effects.

*The James Gang* at least gets out and about as its hard-bitten family of six embark on a crime spree across Britain. Mike Barker, the director, and Stuart Hepburn, the writer, are not bereft of bright ideas, but the script's hunchings between wild comedy and gritty drama scupper their potential. The hard-working cast includes John Hannah, Helen McCrory and Jason Flemyng.



John Boorman won Best Director at Cannes for *The General*, starring Brendan Gleeson, left, and Adrian Dunbar

## 'Excellent stuff'

Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases...

■ **THE GENERAL**  
Laura Brook, 19: The use of black and white adds much to the telling of this true story. Excellent stuff.  
Dom Young, 19: This is not so much a film about the Troubles in Northern Ireland as a portrait of a latterday Robin Hood. Very enjoyable.  
Leslie Isiah Thomas, 20: Every aspect — the dialogue, performances and filming — could not be improved.  
Emma Rolph, 19: Brendan

Gleeson and Maria Doyle-Kennedy are exceptional.

■ **AFTERGLOW**  
Laura: The comedy is wonderfully underplayed.  
Dom: This intelligent film is hugely enjoyable.  
Leslie: Julie Christie's Oscar nomination was too generous.  
Emma: Dry and very ironic. Lara Flynn Boyle has looks and talent in equal measure.

■ **WASHINGTON SQUARE**  
Laura: So awful it makes Merchant & Ivory look good.

## SNAP VERDICT

Terrible plot, clumsy script.  
Dom: Virtually every performance is hugely at fault.  
Leslie: Maggie Smith is embarrassing in this. She would do well to learn that less is more in screen acting.  
Emma: For any movie with Ben Chaplin I would gladly pay 20 times the admission price, however bad it is.

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— Demetrios Mathcou, PREMIERE

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No hiding place at the Globe

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Songs from a convent, colourful Vivaldi and single-minded heroines

VOCAL Hilary Finch

LUCREZIA VIZZANA Componimenti musicali Musica Secreta Linn CKD 071 \*\*\* £15.99 PIETY, passion and scandal in a Bolognese convent: that is how yesterday's London concert of the recording was marketed. But these 20 songs and motets written by a female contemporary of Monteverdi turn out to be a somewhat subtler affair in this enticing first complete recording.

The voices of Musica Secreta provide a little healthy competition for the Anonymous Four, with whom they share a mission to discover and disseminate the work of 16th and 17th-century women composers. Many of them, like Vizzana, wrote and published their music as a way of metaphorically leaping over the convent wall and finding their voice in contemporary musical circles. The findings continue to be revelatory.

Vizzana, who was packed off to a convent at the age of eight, frequently used her exceptional musical talent to celebrate the physical, sacramental presence of Christ in all its sensuous images and paradoxical conceits. The subtly variegated palette of Musica Secreta reveals her own spiritual secrets delicately. Tessa Bonner creates a sense of chaste ecstasy in Veni, dulcissime Domine, and the high soprano of Deborah Roberts is a true morning star in Ave Stella Matutina. The grave mezzo and alto of Catherine King and Mary Nichols add their voices to John Toll's organ playing and the sweet chitarrone of David Miller.

CHORAL Barry Millington

VIVALDI Juditha Triumphans Murray/Kiehr etc/King's Consort/King Hyperion CDA67281/2 \*\*\* £27.99 QUITE why Vivaldi's only surviving oratorio, Juditha Triumphans, is not better known is a mystery. Based on the apocryphal story of the Jewish heroine Judith, whose seduction and be-

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

heading of the Assyrian Holofernes liberates her people from the yoke of their oppressors, the work offers lyricism in abundance and some truly extraordinary scoring. A soprano chalmers depicts the cooing of a turtle dove, a viola d'amore the essential gentleness of Judith, and there are exotic touches from mandolins, theorbos, recorders and a consort of viole d'inglese.

Robert King's direction revels in such novelties, and in the King's Consort he has a skilful team of players to realise the ravishing beauties of the score. The vocalists are in general fully equal to their task too: Maria Cristina Kiehr and Sarah Connolly make a particularly strong impression, and Ann Murray is satisfactory in the title role. Both the recording and Michael Talbot's notes are up to Hyperion's usual high standards.

RECITAL John Higgins

JANE EAGLEN Mozart and Strauss Israel Philharmonic/Mehta Sony SK 60042 \*\* £15.49 SINGLE-MINDEDNESS is the characteristic shared by the heroines of this recital split equally between Mozart and Strauss. Salome wants only the lips of Jokanaan, Arabella will go on waiting for Mr Right, Mozart's Anna desires only vengeance on her father's assassin.

Eaglen is consistently happier in Strauss than in Mozart. She may sound too maternally for the closing scene of Salome despite some ravishingly held top notes. But she is very much at home with the gloom in Ariadne's opening aria, a role she has sung on stage. Arabella is a role that may be to come and Eaglen dismisses her suitors with aplomb. Full marks too for two emotional outbursts from lesser-known works, Guntram and Die Aegyptische Helena.

The Mozart is more variable and is not helped by the heavyweight conducting of Zubin Mehta, fine in Strauss but decidedly lumpy in Don Giovanni. The wounded reproach of Non mi dir is missed by both conductor and soprano, although matters improve considerably with Elettra's two arias from Idomeneo. Sound quality is a bit below Sony's best.

Worth hearing \*\* Worth considering \*\*\* Worth buying

THEATRE: Heather Neill meets actor, director and writer Jack Shepherd

Jack Shepherd fuelled up with a hearty lunch of soup and lamb with olives in the Globe café while talking about his part in the new season. Doing Antonio in The Merchant of Venice in that very public arena demands energy, it seems.

He was at the Globe two years ago to direct Two Gentlemen of Verona, the first production in the almost-completed theatre. "The Globe stage is not as difficult as the Olivier and not as public as doing the promenade version of the Mysteries at the National. I know about the amount of energy and clarity required here, though, a performance has to be public. There is no escape on that stage."

How does he deal with the infamous area between the pillars on the stage, known to actors and directors as "death row" because it is so difficult to make an impact from that position? "Don't stay there too long," comes the instant reply.

Shepherd is serious, smiling rarely, concentrating on the matter in hand. He is directing this season too, a newly conflated version of the two parts of Thomas Dekker's The Honest Whore. And in the midst of all this activity, another series of his Cornish detective series Wycliffe - the last - has just hit our television screens, this time with two episodes directed by Shepherd himself.

"It's very different: in the theatre you're on your own, hammering it out with the actors; in television there's a team and if you are technically inexperienced you can learn as



Jack Shepherd at the Globe: how does he deal with the infamous area between the pillars known as death row? "Don't stay there too long."

you go." He is proud of the series now, believing it has developed in a way which is not acknowledged by the critics: "The books didn't adapt well at first, but we have worked our way out of a formula into something new and exciting. Each episode has a different thrust and style." In any remaining spare moments he is writing a new play set in London in Falklands-era 1982, about the responsibility of artists during wartime. That, he says, is the most fun, getting his own work performed and directing it himself. He trained as an artist

himself, but "by the end of four years I knew I was not suited to being a teacher, which is what most of my contemporaries were becoming." So he switched to the Central School of Speech and Drama and the Drama Centre in London, and he has rarely been out of work since he graduated in 1965, a fact he acknowledges with a broad, if fleeting, grin. This summer's acting challenge is tougher than most. He has the measure of the Globe's physical characteristics and of his part, but what about the audience? Last year the groundlings threw cabbages at the French in Henry V in a

show of more-or-less good-humoured patriotism; will there be reactions this season to what some see as the anti-Semitism in The Merchant? "I have Jewish friends who think the play thickens prejudice, but there is actually very little generalised anti-Semitism. Only Antonio thinks of Jews as all the same, but he is not fascist. His is an honourable rejection of the practice of usury, which he thinks evil. There are some pretty brutal bits which it will feel unpleasant to do, but there are no parallels to the Holocaust." The Honest Whore is quite a different kettle of Jacobean

characters and put-upon heroines." He has known Rylance for some years, since the latter played William Blake in an early Shepherd television play in 1990. "We used to devise plays, but when we wanted to do one about William Blake and Tom Paine I thought it would be too difficult to improvise so I'd better write it." Now, he says, he has an addiction to creating things: "I'm not happy unless I'm making something up."

● The Merchant of Venice opens tomorrow night at the Globe (0171-401 9919). The Honest Whore opens on Aug 1

Finely tuned to theatrical song

THERE'S good news (lots) and less good news (just a bit) about the Bernstein concert that launched this year's BOC Covent Garden Festival on Sunday. He was a wonderful theatre composer, and as such repays real singing from real singers, singers who can sustain and shape long vocal lines - which is what we got. After all, the first Broadway Candide also created Stravinsky's Tom Rakewell; and the first London Candide, the ageless Denis Quilley, was on hand at the Palace to compete and sing the opening number. Karl Daymond led off the real-singers stakes with a

Sold by Sold by Bernstein Palace

lump-in-the-throat Lonely Town, one of the loveliest of 20th-century songs; he could be one answer to the current dearth of leading men in musicals, the next Billy Bigelow perhaps. Claron McFadden sang Glitter and Be Gay so well that she could have afforded to work less hard in putting it across, but she duly stopped the show. Then there was the inimitable Sally Burgess, another show-stopper with the feisty One hundred easy ways to lose a man, and one who should have substituted the verb "dance" in I can cook too, given her cavortings in Wrong Note Rag. Her ENO Carmen tomorrow might seem tame after this.

There were some less familiar extracts, too. Burgess and Daymond in the Why Did I Have To Lie about from the opera Trouble, another show-stopper for revival, and two numbers from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The less good news? There was some decidedly peculiar amplification of the BBC Concert Orchestra: from where I was sitting the evening sounded like an extended bassoon concerto. And the great danger with Bernstein is his heart-on-sleeve sentiment: set a tempo a smidgeon too slow, which the fine conductor John Mauceri occasionally did, and all is lost. Hearing four soupy numbers from West Side Story was like being dunked in a barrel of molasses as well as giving a misleading impres-

Old times' sake

Would anyone claim that the increasing virtuosity of orchestras this century is not a good thing? Cue the "authentic" New Queen's Hall Orchestra, which in its latest programme argues that the pursuit of technical perfection has been at the expense of musical spontaneity. While there may be a grain of truth in that, happily most period bands do not lower their standards in search of authenticity; the best combine precision with flair, qualities both a little underappreciated in Tuesday's NQHO account of Mahler's Sixth Symphony. In-

terpretations of the mighty Sixth need not be vulgar to leave the listener shaken and stirred, but this one under Wyn Morris, the seasoned Mahlerian and new principal conductor of the NQHO, failed to take emotional flight. Even the first movement's Alma theme lacked passion; indeed, the whole movement lumbered along, coming alive only in its closing bars. The wind ensemble was shaky in the Scherzo, and undistinguished solo playing in the

Andante meant that real rapture was achieved only at its end, again too late. The way in which the last "hammer blow of fate" landed slightly off target said it all about this underwhelming performance. There is something about the NQHO's idealisation of a

lost orchestral world that suggests it is chasing the musical equivalent of warm beer and cricket, an impression only underlined by the playing of the national anthem at the start. The more subtle colours of its orchestral palette are a revelation, and it is good to hear how less-upholstered strings can alter the balance of the surging start or the disembodied sounds that introduce the finale. Yet for the period movement to have validity, the rediscovery of old sounds should be the key to new insights, not an end in itself.

JOHN ALLISON

CONCERTS

though Tracey Welborn sang Maria and the duets with Rebecca Caine. Welborn also excelled in the Ballad of Eldorado - yes, on balance, the good news far outweighed the rest.

RODNEY MILNES

EXTRA PERFORMANCE ADDED SUNDAY 7 JUNE AT 7.30PM LAST REMAINING SEATS RELEASED FOR ROYAL GALA EVENING ON MONDAY 8 JUNE



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are seeded in the 56-strong draw which includes the US Open Champion Australia's Patrick Rafter, Jonas Bjorkman and Goran Ivanisevic, beaten in the final last year by Mark Philippoussis.

HOW TO ENTER Simply call our competition hotline below with your answer to the following question: Who won last year's Stella Artois Championships? a) Tim Henman b) Patrick Rafter c) Mark Philippoussis The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL rules apply. Lines will be open until midnight on Sunday May 31. All entrants must be aged 18 or over. Call 0891 300 371 (0990 200 673 - outside UK) 0891 calls cost 50p per minute, 0990 calls are charged at national rate

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IMPRESSIONS

Old life of a muse

BOOKS

LIFE'S A BEACH

De Botton on Connolly

How to have the best of both worlds

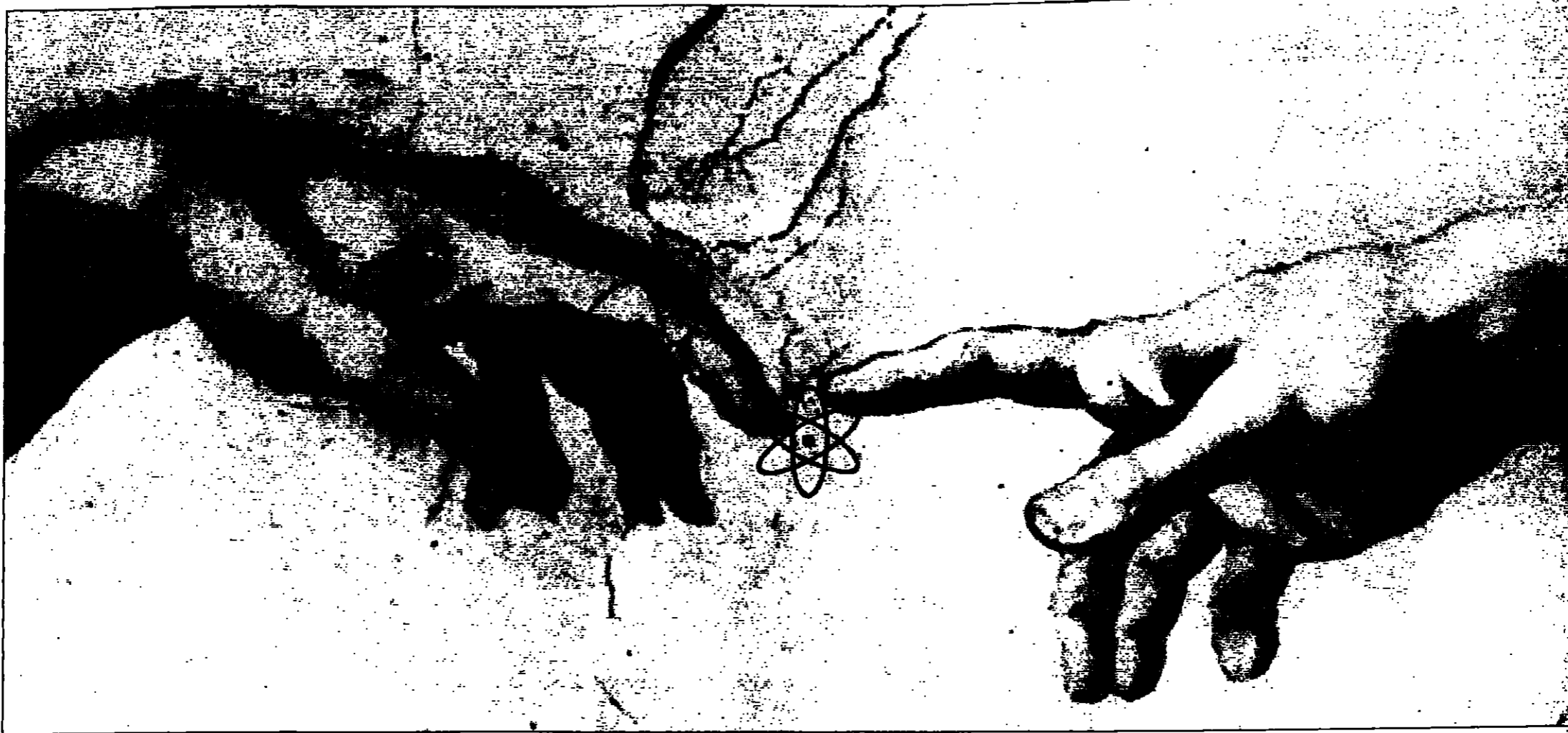
In the beginning?

Roger Scruton watches sparks fly as faith and physics meet

John Polkinghorne is one of the most remarkable of modern theologians...

It is no less of a threat either. Two questions therefore remain: whether there are grounds for the truth of religion...

Polkinghorne is wedded to the Anthropic Principle, which says (roughly) that the world must be such that we can be conscious of it...



BELIEF IN GOD IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

By John Polkinghorne

Yale, £14.95 ISBN 0 300 07294 5

admits that it probably is. But it is a significant tautology, he thinks, since it reminds us how amazingly improbable it is that the world should be a knowable world...

Polkinghorne fortifies that suggestion with references - both dazzling and fleeting - to all the frontiers of cosmology and microphysics...

The trouble is that the question to which science is being invoked as an answer is not a scientific question...

It was Kant who first saw this clearly. Science cannot tell us that the world harmonises with our cognitive powers...

Polkinghorne's book ranges widely. He takes on all the most

thorny problems of theology: the problem of evil, miracles, divine intervention, the incarnation, human freedom, the after-life...

There is much of interest in Polkinghorne's suggestion that divine intervention is best understood in terms of an input into the information content of random distributions...

Laughter in the dark

Alain de Botton gets down on the beach

This novel achieves all the author's intentions. Predominant is the wish to make the reader laugh. Over three novels, Connolly has established himself as a very English comic author...

Despite all the jokes, these aren't cheering novels. In Connolly's world, humans are selfish, self-destructive, frail, arrogant and in need of knocking down a peg or two...

istic, neurotic, and egotistic cut-out. Howard has a thing going on the side with Zoo-Zoo, who - one can tell from the name - doesn't owe much to reality...

SUMMER THINGS

By Joseph Connolly

Faber, £9.99 ISBN 0 571 15076 6

torturing men with her good looks. She particularly likes driving weak men crazy, and has picked on Norman Furnish, a one-track coward who works for her father...

Then there are the Street's neighbours. Brian and Doty, who used to be very, very rich, but then went bankrupt in the recession and are now heading for deep, deep poverty...

to keep up appearances. They have a son called Colin, who is 15 and also has one dominant character trait - the desire for sex. Lastly, there's a character called Melody...

Despite Connolly's ability to keep the reader turning pages and his skill at creating comic situations, this book is strangely depressing. As in the novels of Arnis père and fils, the vision he articulates is unrelenting and bleak...

After a few hundred pages, one longs for air. Connolly's jokes have no redeeming quality: we're not invited to laugh at our own follies reflected in the characters. They are too implausible for that...

Alain de Botton's Why Proust Can Change Your Life is published by Picador, out in paperback this month, priced £5.99.

A rare feather in her cap

The Devil's Chimney is an allegory for the structure of South African society in this century. The novel's spine is a set of crumbling racial distinctions, stacked up like old bricks...

The violence intrinsic to ostrich farming mirrors the brutality of diseased social relations. When they are plucked, the ostriches are hooded, just like the Coloured torture victims unveiled by the Truth Commission...

Ruth Scurr THE DEVIL'S CHIMNEY By Anne Landsman Grafton Books, £9.99 ISBN 1 85 207 176 4

into the abyss of violence underlying apartheid. It's a familiar, distressing history and a challenging context for any writer. Anne Landsman's first novel is an imaginative feat of the highest order...

Artist, harlot, heroine

AS A young woman she may have slithered down a banister wearing nothing but a mask, yet it is her face which is most familiar. As an artist's model, Suzanne Valadon leant her features to the slatterns of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec...

Yet fewer will remember how Valadon saw her own face. Only a handful will recognise her from the untutored austerity of an early pastel portrait, from the drawings which Degas so admired...

In restoring to Valadon the artistic credibility she deserved - "You are one of us," Degas once told her, admiring her "wicked supple line" - June Rose hasn't let the legend slip. This biography sparkles with the anecdote and rumour which surrounded the life of a spirited Bohemian...



Valadon at the centre of her Portrait of the Family, 1913

Rachel Campbell-Johnston MISTRESS OF MONTMARTRE By June Rose Richard Cohen, £25 ISBN 1 85066 070 3

maturity she became a young man's dream. Suzanne Valadon died in 1938, having outlived one of her nation's most innovative aesthetic eras. And it is the excitement and freshness of this era which June Rose now

manages to recreate, by seeing it through the eyes and attitudes of a woman living in a world where women couldn't count for much. "I think of women who are writers, lawyers and politicians as monsters. Mere freaks... the woman artist is just ridiculous," Renoir once wrote. Of course Rose exaggerates and elides, leaping to conclusions. It is not that she is glib or even intending to deceive. But rather, that she looks also to entertain. In this she certainly succeeds. This life of Valadon reads almost like a picaresque novel.



Landsman: her strong first novel confronts South Africa's history

DOUGLAS HURD THE SHAPE OF ICE A riveting read Sunday Telegraph

سكزا من الاصل

THE LITTLE Chaplin's love Cour solit the h of K Blackburn O



THE LITTLE TRAMP

Chaplin's love life

Courageous solitude in the high hills of Kashmir

The adventures of a writing life: Julia Blackburn is dazzled by a star of India

Once upon a time, by a river in India, there lived a little English girl called Margaret Rumer Godden...

Probably the best as well as the best-loved of Godden's books is The River. It was made into a film by Jean Renoir and it has never been out of print since it first appeared in 1946...

Whereas most people try to shuffle off their childish nature in order to become an adult, Godden has resolutely carried it with her, using it in all her finest writing...

Godden had a happy childhood — "halcyon" is the word she uses, in a country where even though she was always a colonial outsider she felt profoundly at home...

another husband, struggle to keep up with her.

Anne Chisholm presents this storyteller's life with fairness and detachment and a quiet good humour which allows her subject to rush headlong through marriage and divorce, motherhood and despair...

RUMER GODDEN: A Storyteller's Life

By Anne Chisholm

Macmillan, £20 ISBN 0 333 622 75 8

then apart from The River she is the author of such classics as The Greengage Summer (1958), In This House of Brede (1969) and most recently the acclaimed Pippa Passes (1994)...

There is a marvellous chapter towards the end of this biography which describes going with Godden — she was by then 87, for goodness sake! — to India to film a documentary about her life...



Deborah Kerr in the 1947 adaptation of Black Narcissus, the novel which established Rumer Godden's reputation in 1935

whisper, her eyes red, her appetite gone and everyone around her filled with a sense of impending guilt and remorse. But she recovers and a month later on December 31 she is once again embarking on a new novel.

I suppose it has something to do with the skilful and intimate way that this biography is written, for as the narrative of Godden's life unfolded I began to feel that I knew her well...

Monsters unleashed

Mary Shelley has become the evil fairy godmother of genetics and embryology. Her story of how Frankenstein created life and made a monster pervades and influences almost all discussions of new advances in biology...

Lewis Wolpert FRANKENSTEIN'S FOOTSTEPS Science, Genetics and Popular Culture By Ian Tattersall Yale, £19.95 ISBN 0 30007 417 4

accepted and highly valued even though it is directly in the tradition of Frankenstein. But the possibilities of manipulating human embryos led to the Human Fertilisation and Embryo Bill...

This is an important book — elegantly written — as it helps us to understand public attitudes to biological research. Public involvement in the applications of research are essential even if interest has to be aroused by Frankensteinian images and genetic pornography...

In bed with Chaplin

The films of Charles Chaplin are in a state of dusty disuse, the victims of fashion and defunct format. For 50 years battered prints of his monochrome silent movies have been shown at the wrong speed on screens far too small...



An enduring May-September romance: Oona and Charles Chaplin in London, 1958

Kenneth S. Lynn, a sometime Harvard professor, has attempted to rival Robinson's life, but his lack of sympathy for his subject causes him to repeat the horrors Chaplin endured during his American years...

Lynn details the claims of Lillita McMurray, whose name and behaviour must surely have inspired Vladimir Nabokov, a Chaplin fan. Notwithstanding his belief that her account is "much too detailed to be fully believable"...

Nicholas Waeshoff

CHARLIE CHAPLIN: AND HIS WORLD

By Kenneth S. Lynn

Aurum Press, £25 ISBN 1 85410 555 8

Chaplin repeatedly denied he was a communist or contributed to party funds, but this was not enough to prevent his exile from the United States in 1952. Truman's Attorney-General, James McGranery, could not make the communist charge stick...

SILENCE BROKE

David Storey's return

Glory of early days

RICHARD FENCHURCH, the protagonist of David Storey's new novel, was named A Serious Man (or, in accordance with the gentler culture of the time a homo seriosus) by his future wife's grandfather...

Fenchurch, a once-fashionable novelist, playwright and painter, finds himself, at 65, almost forgotten. His private life is equally fallow, following a divorce from his first wife, Bea, and the suicide of his second, Vivienne...

Apsley, for all its attractions, contains its share of snares, especially in view of Ety's reminder that Richard has been told "not to dwell on the past" for, as he replies, "How can I fail to... in a place like this? It comes back

Michael Arditti

A SERIOUS MAN

By David Storey

Chatto & Windus, £18.99 ISBN 0 224 05158 X

without any warning." The core of the book consists of Richard's reflections on his past, above all the heady years when, as a miner's son with artistic ambitions, he simultaneously courted Bea and embarked on a passionate affair with her mother.

Pondering his recent artistic silence, Richard declares that all there is left to write is "the process of the mind, for the cinema and television have taken over the province of appearance". Storey here fulfils his narrator's injunction, creating a searing portrait not of madness but of the far more elusive condition of distraction...

This is a fascinating novel, not least for its links to Storey's earlier work. As well as addressing his familiar themes of class and betrayal, fractured families and mental illness, it reworks many of his key images: the wedding man; the young-marrieds in Camden. In particular, the central relationship of a troubled elderly man and his long-suffering daughter recalls the play Early Days...

As a young man, Richard proclaimed the pre-eminent value of art and likened his own vocation to that of a priest. With A Serious Man, Storey confounds the Philistines. This is a major novel and a genuine work of art.

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WEEKEND MONEY

MAY 23 1998  
JAZZ  
Europe

THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

TRAVEL

Bargains of the week: from a walking break on Eigg and Muck to a tour of the Great Wall and the Forbidden Ci

**PACK YOUR BAGS**  
A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices.

**BRITISH ISLES**  
A WALK on the Scottish islands of Eigg and Muck promises varied flora and bird populations. The seven-day Naturetrek tour uses farmhouse accommodation, leaving Inverness on July 11 to coincide with arriving trains and onward ferries. The cost is £395 including meals, transport and guides. Details: 01962 733051.

**GOLF** and gambling breaks are promoted to tie in with the Laytown Races, near Dublin. Where racing is held on the beach on June 9, Golf is near the Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links course - two nights' B&B from June 8-10, with gourmet dinner and

transfers to the racing costs £225, excluding flights. Details: 00 353 1 846 0611.

**CRICKET** fans unable to get Test tickets for England v Sri Lanka at The Oval on August 29 can buy a package to include a night's stay near Heathrow and transfers for £119.95 from Superbreak. Details: 0161-238 5257.

**SPEND** an evening with Emyl Hughes on June 13, debating England's World Cup chances against Tunisia. The former Liverpool star, and snooker's Dennis Taylor, host a quiz at a Warner sports weekend at Nidd Hall, near York. Details: 0870-601 6012.

**LEAVE** Stansted, Manchester or Luton on June 17 for a seven-day tour of Ireland including Dublin, Kerry and Killarney. The CIE Tours package, at £498, has six nights' B&B, meals, transfers and flights. Details: 0990 143 910.

**REDUCTIONS** are available for a stay at a Co Donegal cottage. Sleeping six, the two cottages cost £250 a week from May 31, June 6 or June 13. Details: 01865-390402.

**EUROPE**  
THE greatest of all Champagne villages is purported by many to be Ay, which stages its biannual festival over the weekend of July 3-5. Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours has put together a trip including two nights in Epemay, dinners and tastings, for £289. Details: 01730 893344.

**BELLE FRANCE** will transport any wine that customers buy back to the hotel during its cycling holidays around Provence. Seven-night tours leaving from June 20-30 cost £599 including Eurostar, bikes, guides and half-board accommodation. Each day involves up to 15 miles of cycling, with luggage transferred on-ward. Details: 01797-223 777.

**AN EXHIBITION** of works by the 17th-century Baroque master Bernini brings together many of his finest works at the Borghese Gallery in Rome. The exhibition, which marks the 400th anniversary of Bernini's birth, runs from June 4 to August 27 and Italian tourists have weekend packages from £319, to include transfers and accommodation. Details: 0171-605 7500.

**EARLY-SEASON** camping offers are now flooding the market, among them discounts of £100 on holidays with Keycamp taken in June. Holidays in Britany and Gascony now start at £170 per family for tents; £298 per family for a mobile home. Details: 0181-395 4000.

**PLACIDO DOMINGO** sings *Le Prophete* in Vienna on June 6, and JMB Travel has flights from Heathrow, tickets in the stalls and two nights' B&B close to the Opera House for £619, departing June 5. Details: 01905 425628.

**GOLF** courses across the Channel rely heavily on the British market, none more so than Hotel du Parc near Le Touquet. Bridge Travel has two-night breaks from £208 which include B&B, two green fees for nearby courses and Dover-Calais ferry crossings. Details: 01992 456049.

**A WEEK'S** stay at a small hotel in a fishing village in the Canaries is on offer at £495 for two sharing at the Hotel Club de Mar, Gran Canaria, leaving Gatwick for Las Palmas on June 8. Details from Cricketer Holidays: 01892 664242.



See the glory of the Victoria Falls on a six-day trip to Zimbabwe with SARTravel and receive a £60 discount for travel before June 30. Discounted prices start at £799, to include international and internal flights and five nights' B&B. Details: 0171-287 1133.

**LONG HAUL**  
CHINA is being discounted in June by Qantas Holidays, which is running seven-night trips to Beijing from Heathrow for £549, down from £699. The price includes B&B, tours to the Great Wall, Summer Palace and Forbidden City and transfers. Details: 0990 320000.

**LEARN** how to become a ranger. Wexas is offering a ten-day introductory course in South Africa covering conservation, ecology, animal habitat and anatomy, snake bite treatment and man's impact on nature. The £880 price includes transport within Africa, accommodation, meals and ranger course certificate - international flights, from £381, are extra. Details: 0171-589 3315.

**BARGAINS** are still available to the Far East. Two weeks on Langkawi, an island off Malaysia's west coast, costs £549, including flights and accommodation, with Far East Travel Centre. The company quotes three-night packages to Bangkok from £310 and to Kuala Lumpur for £329. Details: 0171-414 8808.

**TRAVEL** from Scotland, Canada and take advantage of the cheapest charter flight with Bluebird Holidays. Return tickets to Toronto from Glasgow start at £167 for flights leaving tomorrow, returning by June 24. To Vancouver, prices start at £311 and to Calgary, £313.50. Details: 0990 320000.

**TOURISM** to Egypt is starting to recover but bargains are still widely available. Bales Worldwide is cutting £50 off Nile cruises, which also includes a stay in Cairo. The new price is £775 for departures on September 12 and 26, including flights, transfers, B&B accommodation, tours and a guide. Details: 01306 885991.

All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.

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See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

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CYCLING

Winn beats team after surge on Cat and Fiddle

BY PETER BRYAN

JULIAN WINN, yet another international mountain bike rider who has turned his attention to road racing, mastered all that the Peak District could throw at him — and held off the cream of overseas opposition — to win the fourth stage of the 900-mile Proutour yesterday.

The Wales rider knew that he had a quality companion in Dawson, the 100 miles record holder and the British best all-rounder champion. In return, Winn had great determination to offer.

The peloton appeared neither quick nor determined to pull back the two leaders until the US Postal squad, with riders placed third and fourth overall behind Gan's Stuart O'Grady and Boardman, sent Dariusz Baranowski and Tyler Hamilton in pursuit.

On the Cat and Fiddle, the two leaders had recovered from a bad patch and tackled the upper slopes with strength that took their lead over the US team almost to six minutes. Behind, Gan's full squad of six occupied the front positions in the main group, keeping the new fugitives in sight.

Dawson narrowly beat Winn over the summit and the pair started the twisting descent into Buxton at 5.00pm. Their lead, however, was being slowly reduced as four chasers and the peloton gained at the rate of more than 10 seconds per mile.

Winn won the final hill climb on The Gutter, 18 miles from the finish, and the pair held on to their lead until the end having been ahead of the field for 79 miles. Winn said: "I took the lead half a mile from the end as I wasn't too confident about my sprint today."

"Our team hadn't done much in the race so far, so we decided it was time to make a race of it. Our team manager, Phil Jones, told us that we had to go with every attack."

"It was certainly a hard race and there is more to come tomorrow when we go into the Welsh mountains before the finish in Cardiff. I can only try to do my best but I know I'm likely to have tired legs because of today's effort."

O'Grady, of Australia, won the sprint for third place from a bunch of 70 to retain his overall lead with an increased advantage of 21sec from Boardman.



Rostron, the defending champion, plays out of a bunker, during her round of 77 at Walton Heath yesterday

GOLF

Ratcliffe in hurry to qualify for main event

By PATRICIA DAVIES

THE Old Course at Walton Heath proved a severe test as only two players posted sub-par totals yesterday in qualifying for the English women's Amateur championship under a dank Surrey sky. Elaine Ratcliffe, from Sandiway in Cheshire, added a 73, one under par, to her opening 71 to lead on 144, four under, with Liza Walters, of Chevin, Derbyshire, next on 147.

Walters, 18, who is going to Florida State University in August, was furious after a 73 that she felt was ruined by the slow pace of play. "I was four under after seven," she said, "but we waited on every shot from the 5th and I couldn't keep my composure. I lost my temper a bit because I was so frustrated."

No action was taken against the people in front, which included Kim Rostron, the defending champion, who started with a triple-bogey six at the 1st, a daunting 237-yard par three. She tangled with some heather in a bunker and had to take a penalty drop. Conscious of having to scurry thereafter, she remained composed enough to compile a 77.

Walton Heath is normally fast and hard-running, but, after recent rain, it has been playing every inch of its 6,184 yards and even with six par-fives was a long way round for all but the biggest hitters.

"It's playing fair and is a good test," Ratcliffe, who had three birdies in the first seven holes and finished with a fine birdie three at the 18th, said. One of those floating dangerously in the middle of the draw will be Jill Thornhill, the former English and British champion, who is an institution here at her home club. She had a 75 and said: "I almost played well."

It did not go unnoticed that she had changed her caddy. John, her husband, who had been in charge of her trolley in a first-round 81, had to play in a seniors' match. Perhaps it was coincidence that his wife's play improved markedly. Emma Duggleby, the former British champion, followed an opening 90 with a 71 yesterday that equalled the best round and put her in a four-way play-off for the last two qualifying places. She and Kate Burton, the beaten finalist last year, claimed them with pars at the 1st.

DANCE SPORT

Britain left reeling by overseas invasion

By RUTH GLEDHILL

JAPANESE and American dancers have quickstepped away with the early titles at the Open British championships in Blackpool this week after a series of spectacular results that have left home competitors reeling.

In one key event, the professional rising star modern, which covers the four dances of waltz, foxtrot, tango and quickstep, not a single British couple made it into the final seven, with just one home pair, Mark and Jayne Shuttler, in the last 12. This event was won by Igor and Irina Suvorov, from the United States, with Japanese taking the next three places.

In the senior Latin, for couples aged over 35 and dancing the cha-cha, samba, rumba and paso doble, Yoichi and Sachiko Mochizuki, of Japan, took the championship, having earlier been placed third in the senior modern event.

The under-21 Latin, for amateurs, was won by Eugene Katsvezman and Maria Manuova, of the United States, winners of the open United Kingdom championship earlier this year. England had one couple, James Jordan and his partner, Melia, in the final. They finished fourth.

Bill Sparks, another top American dancer, won the rising stars Latin championship for professionals, dancing with an English partner, Kimberley Mitchell, but for his own country. Once again, no British couple made it to the final six.

There was further disappointment on the home front when last year's amateur Latin champions, Matthew and Nicole Cutler, of England, were beaten into second place by Michael Wentink and Beata, of South Africa, the runners-up last year. Just five British couples made it into the top 24 and only four into the top 25 of the under-21 modern, won by Linais Koreiva and Aira Bubolyte, of Lithuania.

England is expected to reassert its dominance in the professional modern championship tomorrow, when the champions, Marcus and Karen Hilton, of Rochdale, and Luca and Lorraine Baricchi, of London, will contest the title.

Global racers feed on speed

Edward Gorman looks forward to more thrills in the next sprint by sail

THE Whitbread Round the World Race is now a 32,000-mile sprint. Every running of the event since 1973 has produced an advance. This latest one, which finally finished amid spectacular scenes on the Solent on Sunday, has raised the game and the intensity of competition to a higher level.

Paul Cayard and EF Language won the race because he and many of his crew had no previous experience of the Whitbread and treated it like one huge America's Cup or inshore race round the cans.

Cayard's problem was not trying to maintain his speed and his advantage but working out how to take the foot off the accelerator.

"This is why the more experienced Whitbread veterans got left behind and why in the next race — the Volvo Ocean Race in 2001 — we can expect

more grand prize-takers with inshore and Olympic backgrounds to appear on the crew lists. This new intensity is the deathknell for many of the original attractions of the race — the sense of adventure, the danger, the human spirit pitted against the elements.

Now the oceans are simply a race track, nothing more, and it is all about winning. The challenge for Volvo is to ensure that the thrills of this event are shared by more and more people. Most of the fundamentals are right — a fast and exciting boat and only one class to concentrate on, scoring by points and a combination of short and long legs. Advances in communica-

tions technology have made the Whitbread almost a spectator sport through e-mail, live television footage and the Internet.

The Whitbread or the Volvo could now become the undisputed World Cup of sailing and push the more obscure concepts behind the America's Cup firmly into second place.

Few who have followed this race would disagree that it has been too long. The media have suffered from fatigue and so have the competitors. This has been made worse by the fact that the main issue was decided by the end of February.

There are strong arguments for starting the race later in the year and cutting out at least two legs. However, nine legs have offered a good balance between long ocean passages and testing and exciting short sprints. Another option is to cut the length of stopovers, when the race loses momentum. This would bring the shore teams closer to the competitive heart of the race and increase the "pit lane" atmosphere.

Table titled 'HOW THEY FARED IN THE WHITBREARD RACE' showing rankings for various yachts and their crews across 10 legs of the race.

Stage details

A small but workmanlike group. Winn's lone venture started after 16 miles when his became the tenth attack of the morning. For a few minutes, he hovered in front on his own but clearly in sight of the main pack until he was joined by Kevin Dawson, the British champion time trialist, who is riding for Great Britain. Richard Moore, of Scotland, also tried to reach the two leaders but failed.

Behind the pair, Chris Boardman's team went to the head of the peloton, but even so the Winn-Dawson tandem continued to gain time on the rest of the field as they negotiated the lower slopes of the crowd-lined Cat and Fiddle.

Winn and Dawson, as it later transpired, decided to share the pacemaking. They also agreed that their rations of food and drink for the day would be pooled.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE, featuring a bridge game deal and commentary by Robert Sheehan.

Advertisement for KEENE on CHESS, featuring a chess diagram and commentary by Raymond Keene.

Advertisement for SPORT IN BRIEF, listing various sports news items.

Tourists with rounder minds relish triumph

At last it has happened — an English win on West Indies soil. It may not have come in the cricket Test series last winter, but it would be churlish not to salute the achievements of the England women's rounders team.



Sarah Potter

Bequia is the largest of the Grenadines and is nine miles south of St Vincent. The island is also home to the Caribbean Rounders Association and the National Rounders Association, based in Nottingham, logged the fact and organised the first official England tour.

Every schoolgirl in the land is taught rounders, but the youngest player on this trip was 20. All the players compete in local leagues and one, Carol Neale, from Leicester, is a 45-year-old grandmother. "They say life begins at 40 and it does," she said. "That's when I started playing for England. I loved it at school, but didn't know you could carry on. Since I started it up again, I haven't looked back."

Neale's new beginning came when a friend invited her to play in a game organised by the local hair-dressing salon. "My kids were at an age when I was playing cricket and football with them, but I wasn't doing any other sport," she said. "Then I got told after one match that someone from the England team had been watching me. That's how I got invited for a trial."

The watcher was Mark Linfit, the coach for seven years. "He travels a lot around the country and knows most of the girls," Neale said. "It's also word of mouth. If someone says there's a brilliant player somewhere, Mark goes to see. The trial for the West Indies trip was at an East Midlands school and there must have been easily a hundred players. I thought they'd be bound to go for the young ones. I couldn't believe it when I was picked and when the letter arrived the whole family shouted hooray."

For Neale, a single parent who works as a part-time cleaner at a cinema, it felt like

everything was happening at once. Her daughter Donna, 22, was getting married three days before the departure date and her son, Scott, would have to celebrate his 21st birthday without her. "They both took the micky at first, but they were really pleased for me. Scott told me to go because I wouldn't get another chance and Donna said she didn't want any money for her wedding."

Rounders is not an affluent game and England players who were unable to find their own sponsor had to foot the bill themselves. "When I realised how much it was going to cost, I just thought 'Oh no,'" she said. "I applied to Leicester City Council for a grant and my dad said he'd give me £100. I was really choked about that because they're pensioners and need it, but that's what he wanted. A teacher at a local school gave me £100 and an uncle £50. When the grant came, I was nearly in tears because it meant I was really on my way."

Not before she had arranged to get a passport, though. "I had a one-year one to go for a weekend to France a few years ago," she said. "The only other time I'd been abroad was to a beer festival when I was two months pregnant with my son."

For Neale, arriving in Bequia was like stepping back in time. "It was beautiful out there and I can't get over how friendly the people were," she said. "We stayed with families and all the houses were on this steep hill, some of them on stilts. It had a concrete track, no kerbs and sheep wandering around. A rooster woke us up every morning."

The first rain in four months did little to soften the playing area — photographs show it to be bald, rough ground. "They had some good players, but we backed each other up in the field and were less erratic," Neale said. "I think they learnt a lot and the crowds loved it."

Rodgers in share of early lead

Chris Rodgers showed his liking for the old course at Gog Magog in Cambridge to share the lead after the opening round of the 24th Lagonda Trophy yesterday. In conditions ideal for low scoring Rodgers returned an opening round 68, two under par and three strokes below the standard scratch score.

Rodgers was matched by Daniel Kitteridge, from the Great Hadham club in Hertfordshire. They were one stroke clear of Graeme Clark, from Doncaster, and Steven Warwick, from East Berkshire.

ROGERS: Jan Stern improved her chances of winning the City of Bath Open singles this week for the third time in succession after moving to within a win of a quarter-final place yesterday. Stern is likely to face Margaret Dyer, a four-times champion, from Clevedon Promenade, which would set up a potential semi-final with Ann Burgess, from Kingswood and Hanham, who won in 1992 and 1994.

ORIENTEERING: Steve Hale and Yvette Hague carry Britain's medal hopes in the third event in the World Cup series at Windermere today. Both finished with bronze medals in the opening classic distance event in Ireland and expect to be better that either today or in the short-distance race on Sunday.

ATHLETICS: Josia Thugwane, the Olympic champion, announced yesterday that she will not take part in the marathon at Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

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RACING: GODOLPHIN TEAM OPTS TO SUPPLEMENT 1,000 GUINEAS WINNER FOR DERBY AT EPSOM

Cape Verdi to challenge the colts

BY CHRIS McGRATH

THE pioneers of Godolphin have always been reluctant to recognise the frontiers of any kind, and yesterday another inspiring new horizon came into view when Cape Verdi was confirmed as an intended runner in the Vodafone Derby on Saturday week.

No filly has won the classic since Fimella was victorious at Newmarket in 1916, but precious few have ever tried — and once Cape Verdi planted the seeds of the idea in Sheikh Mohammed's mind, by running away with the 1,000 Guineas, he was never likely to discover the craven instincts to resist the challenge.

Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, received a call on Tuesday night from Sheikh Mohammed, who owns the filly along with his brother, Maktoum al-Maktoum. He was told that Cape Verdi will try to give Frankie Dettori his first Derby success unless the going were to become unsuitably soft.

"The owners are very keen to take up the challenge," Crisford said yesterday. "And challenge is very much what it is. At the end of the day, they are great sporting people and for us the Derby is still the

greatest race in the world. The new supplementary stage means that the best horses are never precluded and the filly sex allowance comes into the equation, too."

Crisford added: "Obviously, it is going to be extremely difficult. She has the class, all right, but you need everything to be right on the day, to get the rub of the green at Epsom. She's at the moment, but we need to get her there in the same condition."

All Cape Verdi's public exertions have been on straight, level tracks, but Crisford does not envisage her being con-

found by the idiosyncrasies of Epsom. His only concern would be if conditions were to favour the dour, staying types. "She raced left-handed in the trials at Nad al Sheba and trained left-handed every day for six months at Al Quoz," he said. "She's also very agile, nimble, can hold a position. I don't see the undulations being a problem. It's a different ball game, of course, over a mile and a half compared with the Guineas, but we're confident she will stay. Only if the ground were slow would her stamina become a question."

Godolphin's second string, by contrast, would be well suited by such a test. City Honours, who will now be ridden by John Reid, flourished over the winner and ran a crack on his debut for Godolphin in the Dante Stakes. It cannot be a measure solely of the benefits of a winter in Dubai that Cape Verdi and City Honours were both bought from Robert Sangster last season.

Godolphin has clearly spent its lavish funds very well, having also recruited Bahr — now a warm 13-8 favourite with William Hill for the Oaks in the absence of her stablemate.

The playing of Godolphin's hand did not discourage Geoff Wragg, who confirmed that Gulland will take his chance at Epsom, rather than head to Chantilly on Sunday for the Prix du Jockey-Club. The Newmarket trainer, anxious about the possibility of fast ground for his Chester Vase winner, said: "I have been to Epsom and it is genuine good ground, and the forecast is unsettled, too."

Another rival, Haami, limbered up with a racecourse gallop at Goodwood yesterday. John Dunlop was "delighted" by the colt's work over nine furlongs with his stablemate, Silver Patriarch. The latter, denied by a desperately narrow margin in last year's Derby, returns to the meeting for the Vodafone Coronation Cup tomorrow week.

Ladbrokes' Derby betting is: 5-2 Cape Verdi, 9-2 Greek Dance, 5-1 King Of Kings, 8-1 City Honours, Gulland, 10-1 Haami, 14-1 bar.

Richard Evans (3.20 Ayr) Nap: Khalas (3.20 Ayr) Kieren Fallon looks a significant booking for this promising Barry Hills-trained colt. A winner at Lingfield last term, he shaped with promise on his seasonal reappearance behind Bawstan at York.

NB: Miss Grapette (2.20 Ayr) not envisage her being con-

found by the idiosyncrasies of Epsom. His only concern would be if conditions were to favour the dour, staying types. "She raced left-handed in the trials at Nad al Sheba and trained left-handed every day for six months at Al Quoz," he said. "She's also very agile, nimble, can hold a position. I don't see the undulations being a problem. It's a different ball game, of course, over a mile and a half compared with the Guineas, but we're confident she will stay. Only if the ground were slow would her stamina become a question."



Gulland, the Chester Vase winner, takes his chance in the Derby at Epsom

BRIGHTON

THUNDERER 2.10 Ewenny, 2.40 Myltons Mistake, 3.10 Ardent, 3.40 Harodon, 4.10 Soft Touch, 4.40 Sizzling. Our Newmarket forecast: 2.10 Ewenny, 3.40 Urgent Reply, 4.10 MISS HILLSIDE (map).

GOING: FIRM DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.10 EBF NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O, £2,847; 5f 213yds) (10 runners)

2.40 SHORSTAM STAKES (£2,428; 6f 209yds) (10 runners)

3.10 FLAMAGAN AND ALLEN HANDICAP (£2,617; 7f 214yds) (15 runners)

3.30 MOBILEPHONE GROUP HANDICAP CHASE (£2,866; 2m 5f) (8 runners)

2.00 MOBILEPHONE GROUP NOVICES HURDLE (£3,133; 2m 4f 110yds) (9 runners)

2.30 MOBILEPHONE GROUP NOVICES CHASE (£3,485; 3m 2f) (8 runners)

3.00 MOBILEPHONE GROUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,547; 2m) (16 runners)

3.40 SEAFORD SELLING HANDICAP (£1,866; 1m 3f 190yds) (14 runners)

4.10 REGENCY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O, £2,334; 7f 214yds) (5 runners)

4.40 CLAYTON HANDICAP (£3,074; 5f 213yds) (11 runners)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

3.30 MOBILEPHONE GROUP HANDICAP CHASE (£2,866; 2m 5f) (8 runners)

4.00 MOBILEPHONE GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,828; 3m 110yds) (18 runners)

4.30 MOBILEPHONE GROUP HUNTERS CHASE (Annulars; £1,128; 2m 5f) (14 runners)

5.00 MOBILEPHONE GROUP MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,413; 2m) (16 runners)

Chantilly field takes shape

CROCO ROUGE and Saratoga Springs yesterday won equality from William Hill as his 3-1 joint favourites for the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) — but there is unlikely to be much in the way of fraternity or liberty between the colts at Chantilly on Sunday (Chris McGrath writes).

Pascal Bary, who has such a formidable record in the classic, rates Croco Rouge the best colt he has trained. Though the lightly raced son of Rainbow Quest quickened decisively to win the traditional trial, the Prix Lupin, he is expected to appreciate the extra distance on Sunday. Having said that, a test of

stamina will also suit the fast-finishing runner-up, Daymarit, though he is said to have "a mind of his own".

Much the same could be said of Christy Roche when he gave Second Empire such a conspicuously easy time in the Irish 2,000 Guineas last Saturday. Michael Tabor, who had made some typically extravagant investments in the betting ring, will perhaps be relieved to see his colours worn by Michael Kinane on the next classic candidate off Aidan O'Brien's conveyor belt, Saratoga Springs.

Kinane rides the Ballydoyle horses on their overseas assignments and his style of riding will provide an ener-

getic contrast here — which is just as well. Saratoga Springs having betrayed his usual mid-race stolid before emerging a tough winner of the Dante Stakes at York on his reappearance.

There were 20 acceptors yesterday. Among five trained in Britain, Sadien still has the option of the Vodafone Derby, but Muder, who blew up in the Lupin, is an intended runner for Godolphin, and Barry Hills will be represented by Prolix. William Hill bets: 3-1 Saratoga Springs, Croco Rouge, 6-1 Sayarshan, 13-2 Muder, 8-1 Daymarit, 10-1 Sadien, Sestino, 12-1 Prolix, Thief Of Hearts, 20 bar. (The race is live on BBC2).

Harding teams up with Hammond next term

BRIAN HARDING was yesterday announced as stable jockey to Mickie Hammond for the next jumps season. He will replace Russ Garrity, retained for the last two years by the Middleham trainer. Harding was second jockey to Gordon Richards and rode One Man to victory in the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham in March. The appointment completes a remarkable change in fortunes for Harding, who only returned from

a year's enforced lay-off, caused by a head injury, last December. He had been expected to ride on the face side.

Sir Mark Prescott's string has not been right this season, but he has entries tomorrow — and bookmakers do not expect his touch to have rusted. Pasternak, who landed a gamble in the Cambridgehire last autumn, is 12-1 favourite for the Royal Hunt Cup, while his stablemate, Rudimental, is quoted at 16-1, along with For Your Eyes Only.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Folkestone Going good to firm 1.40 (7) 1, Three Angels Id Bigger, 13-2; 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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# Weighty case for overeating



O'Neill tucks into a modest portion of his staple diet

Is training for sport a licence to eat? And could practically anyone pull-off feats like running across the Sahara or dragging a sledge across the Antarctic if only they could get their hands on enough food and drink? These are questions raised this week by reports of the amazing tuna sandwich eating champion of Harrogate.

Stephen O'Neill, 17, who recently became the junior 800 metres champion of Yorkshire, apparently ploughs his way through 25 tuna sandwiches a day; up to six for breakfast, 15 in his packed lunch and four for supper. At teatime, he makes do with a large plateful of pasta or rice (with the inevitable tuna added) and throughout the day, whenever he is hungry, he tops up with snacks of apples and cakes.

O'Neill, who stands 6ft 2in and weighs 11st 5lb, believes that he is underweight. "I guess I'm lucky," he said, "because I can eat as much as I like and still not put on weight." He believes his food intake is the secret of his training and fits his prodigious eating workouts around his daily running sessions.

Yet he is by no means the world record-holder for big-eating sportsmen. Sporting lore has a rich menu of giants who have gorged themselves beyond the appetites of slighter mortals.

Saturday marks the retirement

in Tokyo of the Hawaiian-born sumo wrestler, Konishiki, said to be the heaviest wrestler in the sport's 1,300-year history. The Dump Truck or Meat Bomb, as he is known, has been put on a three-year diet to lose half of his 43st fighting weight. He entered the sport at a mere 27st and bulked up on a traditional sumo stew called *chanko nabe*.

One of the greatest of Great Britain's homegrown big-eaters was the England football goalkeeper, William "Fatty" Foulke, who weighed in at 23st and once polished off all 11 pre-match breakfasts laid on for him and his Chelsea team-mates.

However, the most prodigious amount of food consumed in what can be classed as a sporting venture led — amazingly — to a loss in weight. The ultimate sporting diet is documented in mouth-watering detail in a new book by Mike Stroud, *Survival of the Fittest* (Jonathan Cape, £16.99). Stroud is a compulsive explorer and a sports scientist who has put his body through challenges that most of us would consider crazy. He has journeyed the Himalayas and the length of the Amazon, he has run in the Sahara Marathon of the Sands — billed as the world's toughest foot-race — and, most



famously, he teamed up with Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer, to be the first to walk unsupported from coast to coast across the Antarctic continent.

While dragging a sledge across the South Pole, Stroud did detailed research on diet and its link with

**'He once polished off all 11 pre-match breakfasts laid on for him and his team-mates'**

bodyweight. The daily mountain of food was enormous and makes O'Neill's 25 sandwiches look like a slimmer's snack.

"I considered an ideal intake should be as much as 6,500 calories each day," he wrote, "but to haul a sledge filled with 100 days' rations containing that much energy was not a practical proposition. Instead,

I decided that the best compromise was to eat only 5,500 calories and accept the loss of bodyweight."

It was a mistake. On some of their toughest days, Stroud and Fiennes burnt more than 11,000 calories each. Their energy use far exceeded any measurements previously reported in scientific literature. For example, tests on cyclists participating in the Tour de France showed that riders use only about 8,000 calories per day.

"When Ran Fiennes and I returned," Stroud wrote, "our weights were down by nearly 25 kilograms [55lb]. With this weight loss, we were absolutely ravenous, which, to a non-expert, might not seem surprising. Nevertheless, it was actually unexpected — most people who starve to such low weights are profoundly anorexic."

"But Ran and I were not like famine victims. We remained hungry in the face of great weight-loss because, despite eating too little to meet our needs, we had maintained a very large throughput and so had no marked vitamin or trace element deficiencies. Indeed, rather than anorexia, our drive to consume was total and we both ate day and night for several weeks after coming home."

The message of Stroud's book

and O'Neill's sandwiches is that the secrets of health, human performance and weight control are built into our evolutionary design. The whole balance of our physiology is set up to overcome the rigours of a mobile lifestyle with a varied and mainly vegetarian food supply — "the life led by our ancestors, who were genetically almost identical to ourselves, until just 10,000 years ago".

Despite the differences that we display in life and in the sporting arena, all of us, according to Stroud, are but a few steps away from the wandering hunter-gatherers who once roamed Africa.

**W**e are born to play hard and eat as much as we can get — but the trouble starts when we miss out on the hard exercise. In Stroud's book, there are no excuses. Almost all of us, he believes, have tremendous sporting potential and can, if we wish, run across deserts or frozen continents.

More practically, perhaps, we can all, like Stephen O'Neill, eat as many sandwiches as we could ever dream of and, like Mike Stroud at the South Pole, still watch the weight drop off. But this only works if each time your hands reach for the tuna, your feet stretch out for the trainers.

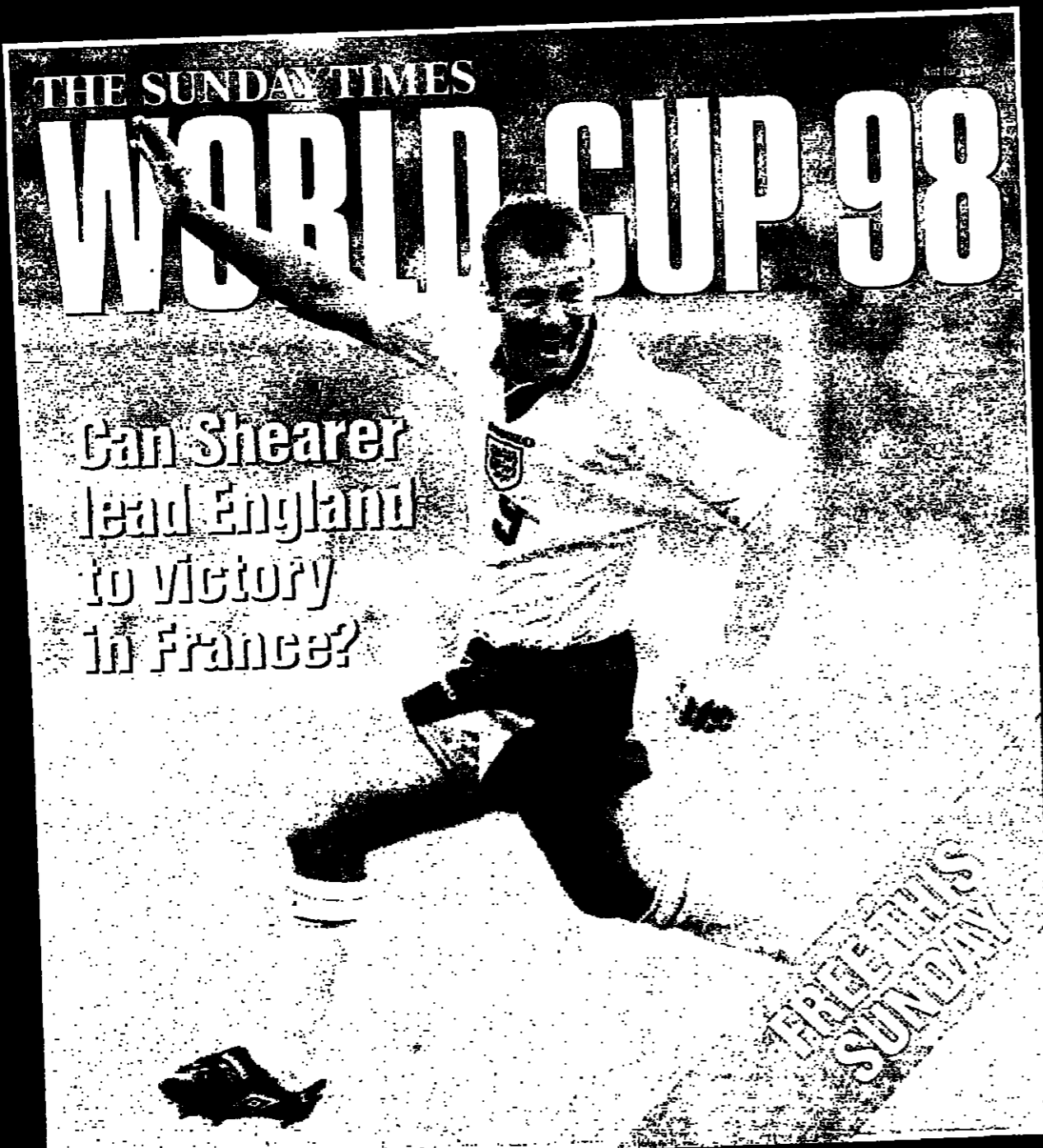
JOHN BRYANT



O'Neill, suitably nourished by his tuna sandwich overdose, takes to the streets of Harrogate to train

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

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13 MAY	FMS	SOUTH WINCHESTER 123
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14 MAY	B.C.H. SHOPFITTERS LTD	ASTON WOOD 132
14 MAY	SCHROEDER/SKANDIA	MERE 128
14 MAY	NATWEST MORTGAGE SERVICES GOLF SOCIETY	TELFORD 140
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عبدالمنعم



Benson and Hedges Cup: Leicestershire and Yorkshire book their places in semi-finals

Maddy's opening shots prove decisive

By Pat Gibson

LEICESTER (Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire beat Kent by eight wickets

IF Darren Maddy was disheartened by his first experience of international cricket in the Texaco Trophy matches against South Africa, it did not show yesterday. The 24-year-old opening batsman led Leicestershire into the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup at Grace Road with his fourth match-winning performance in this year's competition. "England's No. 1," his jubilant supporters sang, they may well be right when the selectors name the team this weekend for the first Cornhill Test at Edgbaston a week today.

Maddy, who made one in the first one-day international at the Oval, was not picked for the second at Old Trafford and did not get to the crease in the third at Headingley, put all last six wickets for 33 by the simple expedient of putting the ball in the right place on a pitch which, Kent might argue, was not good enough for a match of this importance.

It was damp and patched with grass, which made for seam and bounce, and with the ball swinging as well on a drizzly morning Leicestershire's only problem was controlling it. This helped to explain the extras, which beat their own record for the competition of 53, established in the game against Warwickshire three weeks ago.

Kent did not help themselves either. Ward could claim that the ball from Mullyally that he chipped to mid-on stopped on him, and Key was mortified to see Smith, at mid-wicket, pluck his pull off Ormond-out of the air. But Fleming and Ealham were out to shots unworthy of international cricketers.

Fleming, whose brand of pinch hitting was ill-suited to such conditions, soon topped an attempted pull to the wicketkeeper off Ormond, who then had Wells leg-before to give him three wickets for two runs in ten balls.

Ealham's job then was obviously to stay with Hooper, the one Kent batsman with the technique to survive and eventually prosper, but after doing it well for 20 overs and 21 runs he tried to pull Simmons and skied to mid-on.

Simmons went on to remove Cowdrey, who struggled desperately for eight overs before slicing a drive to gully, Marsh, who pushed back a return catch first ball, and Phillips who was bowled, leaving Hooper to do the best he could with the ball.

He had been there through 33 overs, hitting a six, whacked over long-off by Wells, and four fours, when he lifted Simmons to the cover boundary where he was brilliantly caught by Maddy.

Maddy was to dominate the rest of the contest. He needed some luck early on. At 15, a whip off Phillips went through Key's hands at square leg and at 28 he steered Fleming into the gully where Phillips dropped the catch. After that, however, he was unstoppable, hitting two sixes and 12 fours in his 93 off 129 balls.



Lehmann, whose century helped to rescue Yorkshire after a desperate start, heaves powerfully for four yesterday. Photograph: Ben Duffy

Lehmann masters Durham minors

By Richard Hobson

HEADINGLEY (Durham won toss): Yorkshire beat Durham by 102 runs

DURHAM have become a far more competitive unit for replacing the fading stars of their early seasons with hungry young talent from within their own borders.

After reaching the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup for the first time, however, the next step proved much too steep. They lost to Yorkshire by eight wickets with 15 overs to spare in the zonal stage of the competition and a second defeat yesterday was just as humbling.

Yorkshire were roused from a dreadful start by Darren Lehmann, who scored a magnificent 119 from 133 balls, and as grey, gloomy clouds descended over Headingley, so Durham's hopes of reaching their target of 270 receded with almost indecent haste.

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is unlikely to play again this season. To succeed, Durham needed two of the top order to bat through a substantial portion of the innings. Instead, Speak pushed forward half-heartedly to Hutchison and Hutton nibbled at an away-swing from Hamilton. Boon drove to Gough at mid-off, having rejected the offer to come off for bad light, and when Speight fell leg-before it became a matter of how quickly Yorkshire could wrap up the innings. They did so with 11 overs remaining.

It had all begun so well for Durham. Under heavy skies, the toss won by Boon appeared decisive and Durham removed McGrath and Byas inside the first two overs as they exploited the conditions. However, Lehmann is among the foremost one-day batsmen in county cricket, his range of shots incorporating orthodox straight hitting alongside the most outlandish improvisations. The biggest tribute that can be paid to Michael Vaughan is that he never tried to match the Australian stroke for audacious stroke during the recovery partnership.

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By then, White had driven Collingwood for six over extra cover and both Parker and Blakey repeated the shot to equal effect as Yorkshire plundered 59 from the last five overs.

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Essex left as Fraser blows hot

By Michael Henderson

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Essex have scored 232 for nine wickets against Middlesex

ESSEX had much the worst of it yesterday. When it was deemed that play could start at 4.45pm, after a day of shivering and waiting, they lost the toss and then lost nine wickets to a Middlesex side that has rediscovered the taste for the one-day game.

Fraser took the first couple and when Johnson succeeded him at the Pavilion End, he took two more, including the important one of Stuart Law, who had batted in his familiar dashing style. Essex are emerging from the wars of early season, though injury still deprives them of Pritchard, their captain, but if they win today when this Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final resumes, having made 232, it will be a good effort.

It took Fraser only five balls to make his mark. Bounding in like a man ten years younger, he immediately had Robinson, who has been full of runs this season, groping for a ball that left him off the pitch, Brown taking a comfortable catch.

For a while Hussain lived uneasily and he never really settled, hard as he tried to take the game to the bowlers. Ramprakash was the catcher at square leg when Hussain sought to chip Fraser rather more firmly, and good deal less than that, the shot he actually managed.

Rollins, promoted to give the innings some zip, succeeded in part. Dropped at deep square leg on one, when Ramprakash committed a rare error, he picked up Fraser for six into the Mound Stand and added four more boundaries, reaching 28 from 22 balls before he drove Johnson to short extra cover.

Johnson found greater success in his next over, Stuart Law slashing to gully where Langer, his fellow Australian, held on. Langer has begun his county career in productive form with a double hundred, a hundred and a ninety already in the county championship, and by taking this catch he saved his team-mates a lot of chasing.

Irani, normally the most uncomplicated of batsmen, found little opportunity to move the rate along when Ramprakash introduced his spinners, and he had collected 16 singles out of 22 when he also drove to short extra cover. Dutch, the catcher, then turned wicket-taker in the next over when Grayson edged an attempted cut to Brown.

Atherton finds right answers to one-day test

By Simon Wilde

THE OVAL (Surrey won toss): Surrey, with all wickets in hand, need 169 runs to beat Lancashire

A MARTIAN armed with press-cuttings from the past four years and arriving at the Oval yesterday would find he had recognised Michael Atherton from his printed image.

In scoring 93 from 109 balls, he played perhaps as fluently as he has ever done and gave the clearest signs that he is relishing the prospect of re-suming his Test career and life without the England captaincy.

It was a masterful performance on a used pitch - it staged the Texaco Trophy match last week - and, for the most part, under an overcast sky. The ball swung and turned, yet Atherton, who has not appeared in England's one-day side since resigning the captaincy, moved effortlessly to 40 in 15 overs and maintained a rate of almost a run per ball. With the game making a low-key start at 3.30pm because of rain, he looked the sharpest man on the field.

However, his efforts - and those of Crawley, with whom he added 122 - did not give his side control of this Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final as they deserved to. When Atherton was third out, at 164, Lancashire were looking at a total of around 250. They were dismissed for 203. Saqlain Muzaffar rounding off their collapse with a hat-trick as tailenders slogged their way through the final over.

Atherton fully deserved a first one-day century in county competition for two years - he scored one for England on this ground 12 months ago - and might have had it but for a distracting incident in the over in which he was leg-before to Bicknell.

Atherton offered Bicknell a difficult return catch, as he had much earlier in the innings, and the bowler mistakenly believed he briefly had the ball under control. Umpire Shepherd asked the third umpire to adjudicate, but their

can have been few people on the ground who thought the catch was clean. In the next over, Fairbrother was needlessly run out looking for a non-existent single and Lloyd, rooted in his crease, caught behind off a Salisbury leg-break. With 13 overs remaining, Wasim and Hegg needed to regroup but within minutes the Lancashire captain swung Salisbury into the hands of Ben Hollolake on the mid-wicket boundary. Hegg perished slogging at Adam Hollolake. It was a useful batting performance but Surrey's two spinners, Saqlain and Salisbury, exerted commendable control. Salisbury, too, was barely recognisable from his old self.

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SPORT

Liverpool give £2m German fitness test

By David Maddock and Matt Dickinson

LIVERPOOL are close to signing Sean Dundee, the £2 million German striker, who flew to Anfield yesterday for a medical as the draw-out deal entered a second week.

Liverpool said last night that they "expect to be able to proceed with the transfer within the next few days".

Dundee, 26, plays for relegated Karlsruhe. Born in South Africa, he is a naturalised German and was top scorer in the Bundesliga two seasons ago, a feat that earned him a single cap.

Liverpool could also complete another signing within the week, after Steve Staunton declined a new contract with Aston Villa. The Ireland defender, who becomes a free agent, wishes to rejoin Liverpool, for whom he played 90 times.

Manchester United have withdrawn from talks with Middlesbrough over the possible sale of Gary Pallister. The deal, though, is likely to go through if Jaap Stam, United's record £10 million signing, avoids injury in the World Cup. United completed one sale yesterday when Ben Thornley, a 23-year-old winger, joined Huddersfield Town.

Tottenham Hotspur are expected to clinch the £3 million transfer of Murat Yakin from VfB Stuttgart this week. The Switzerland player, who appeared against Chelsea in the Cup Winners' Cup final, was with Christian Gross, the Spurs manager, at Grasshopper Zurich. He can play at centre half or in midfield.

Reni Gardie, 32, the French defender, has signed a new one-year deal with Arsenal after changing his mind about retiring.

Mark Goldberg hopes his takeover of Crystal Palace will be finalised tomorrow, allowing him to install Terry Venables as manager. Goldberg, who is buying the club from Ron Noades, also wants to persuade Attilio Lombardo, who is sought by Chelsea, to remain at Selhurst Park.

"The takeover details are in the hands of solicitors and very close to completion," he said yesterday. "I have asked everybody to hold any discussions until it is finalised."

'It often looks as if he is the victim of his own life rather than its master'

The 'keeper who could not save himself

Kevin McCarra on the strife and times of Andy Goram, a player with a rare talent for notoriety

Andy Goram's grasp has been weakening. His private life was slipping from him and making its way into newspapers, where allegations of unedifying behaviour in a relationship with a Celtic employee appeared recently. His touch was no longer sure on the pitch, either, and when Rangers lost the Tennents Scottish Cup final to Hearts of Midlothian this month, Goram conceded the decisive goal to a shot that he would once have saved.

He has now walked out of the Scotland World Cup squad at a moment when his hold on a place in the team had become precarious. The goalkeeper blames his retirement from international football on the press and it is believed that further embarrassing reports will be published shortly. However, although the attentions of journalists can prove distressing, Goram's own life often appears to be the greatest torment that he faces.

On tour in the United States, a jowly Goram had cut a subdued figure as he drifted through the team hotel in New Jersey. "It was all getting on top of him," Alex Miller, the Scotland assistant manager, said. "He wasn't the same Andy." The true surprise lies not so much in Goram's retreat from the front line as in the fact that he remained in active service for so long.

Only the deep seam of insecurity in his character can have prevented his form from being affected by a hectic existence. Goram, 34, has seen two marriages end while attracting unwelcome publicity for a boisterous private life that has brought him a conviction on drink-driving offences. There have been glimpses of disorder, too, in the tales of debts incurred by this highly-paid player.

In his career, there has been the disruption of serious knee



Goram is the best goalkeeper Scotland has produced, but his personal problems meant that he has had to endure as many lows as highs

injuries that required surgery. His survival at the highest level of the game has been at risk for years. In the summer of 1994, Rangers put him on the transfer list because Walter Smith, the manager, was dissatisfied with Goram's attitude to recovering fitness after an operation.

Goram was to be pardoned on that occasion and he has since been in need of further

reprieves. In August, 1995, he pulled out of the Scotland squad that was preparing for a European championship qualifying game against Greece at Hampden Park. On that occasion, it was explained that he "was not mentally attuned". Then, too, a forgiveness was extended that allowed him to return to the national team in May of the next year.



Goram is the best goalkeeper Scotland has produced, but his personal problems meant that he has had to endure as many lows as highs

Tolerance has been forthcoming for two reasons. Goodwill often flows from pragmatism and Goram, who happened to be born in Bury, is the greatest goalkeeper that Scotland has produced. So influential was he that Rangers have been prepared to suffer the occasional eruption of disorderly behaviour for the past seven years. Only now, with his powers appar-

ently waning, has Goram, 34, been released by the club. It was always easy to excuse Goram when his remarkable anticipation and reactions allowed a side to hang on to a lead or evade a deserved defeat. There were, however, more noble reasons for sympathy. It is wrong to present Goram as a throwback to previous decades, when Scottish footballers were famed

FACTFILE

- 1984: Born Bury, April 13
- 1981: Three appearances in first season at Oldham after apprenticeship at West Bromwich
- 1986: Scotland debut against East Germany
- 1987: Joins Hibernian
- 1991: Takes over from Chris Woods after joining Rangers for £1 million
- 1993: Wins hat-trick of Scottish player-of-the-year awards but makes only eight appearances in 1993-94 season because of knee ligament injury
- 1994: Transfer-listed by Walter Smith after disagreements over his training routines
- 1996: Makes first international appearance for 19 months as Scotland are beaten 1-0 by Colombia in Miami and is Craig Brown's first choice for Euro 96
- 1997: Wins sixth Scottish League championship medal as Rangers equal Celtic's record of nine successive titles
- 1998: Rangers finish as runners-up to Celtic in the premier division and lose Scottish Cup final to Hearts. Goram is out of contract and will leave.

ship finals, he was reinstated in the national team despite the magnificent service that Jim Leighton had given in his absence.

That pattern was unlikely to be repeated at the World Cup next month. The case for selecting Goram had been weakened by a season in which he had made more mistakes than in all the previous years with Rangers combined. In September, Leighton, 39, was preferred for the World Cup qualifying match against Belarus at Pitodrie and it is likely that Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, would have arrived at the same decision in France.

By electing to leave the squad, Goram has dodged that blow before it could be delivered. The frustration of weeks spent in close proximity to the World Cup action while being denied the chance to influence it has at least been avoided.

All the same, a sense of loss must be inescapable in a man who knows that his greatest days are over.

After Rangers, where he won six championship medals, he may now be anxious about finding a club of suitable status that wishes to sign him. Brown has left open the door to yet another return to international football, but Goram may struggle to recover the poised gait that will allow him to walk through it.

Croatia lack forward thinking

By Matt Dickinson

CROATIA, possible opponents for England in the second round of the World Cup, have been thrown into disarray. Having almost certainly lost Alen Boksic, the Lazio striker, for the tournament because of a knee injury, Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, further reduced his attacking options yesterday by sending home Igor Cvitanovic for refusing to run extra training laps.

Cvitanovic, 27, who plays for Real Sociedad, will miss the World Cup if Blazevic does not have a change of heart. Judging by the coach's reaction yesterday, he should not hold his breath. "Cvitanovic is definitely eliminated," Blazevic said. "Not even the President can save him now. I had to kick him out because he threatened my authority. The worst thing is that I need him as badly as one needs bread."

The player is unrepentant, claiming that he was singled out for extra work. "I was exhausted," he said. "It seems some can have the luxury of being worn out and I obviously can't" - a reference to Davor Suker, Zvonimir Boban and Robert Jarni, who were spared extra laps after complaining that they were still worn out from a hectic club season.

If Croatia finish second to Argentina in group H, they will meet England if Glenn Hoddle's side win group G. Alternatively, if Croatia win their group and England finish second, they will play each other.

Jürgen Klinsmann missed Germany's match against Finland in Helsinki last night because of injury. The former Tottenham Hotspur striker had to fly to Munich for treatment to bruising on his right leg. He was joined by Thomas Helmer, who required medical attention for a muscular problem. The pair are due to rejoin the squad today.

South Korea, the outsiders in group E, came from behind to draw 2-2 with the Czech Republic in Seoul yesterday. The home side fell behind to first-half goals from Jiri Nemecek and Vratislav Lokvenec, but hit back after the break and reduced the deficit through Hwang Sun-Hong in the 57th minute. Choi Yong-Soo equalised nine minutes from time.

"My kids allowed them to expose problems in defence in the first half, giving away easy goals, but they regained strength later," Cha Bum-Kun, the South Korea coach, said.

More than 700 screaming supporters gathered at Tokyo's international airport yesterday to wave farewell to the Japan squad as the players departed for the World Cup. With the Japanese league in only its sixth season, Japan are rank outsiders for the World Cup at 250-1 and are 25-1 just to win their group. The team's final warm-up game, at home to the Czech Republic last Sunday, drew a crowd of 67,000.

Thrifty time in last chance saloon

Kevin McCarra uncovers reasons for optimism in Major League Soccer

Footballers in the United States are not so much celebrities as travelling salesmen. After a match with Scotland in the RFK Stadium, Washington, on Saturday, the nation's finest will move to New York and display their wares at a training session in Central Park.

In most other parts of the globe, so public an appearance might require the intervention of riot police, but popularity that is taken for granted everywhere else must still be earned in the United States, where football can be seen in its infancy. The very culture of the sport can be treated with suspicion and even resentment. Although the United States will play in the World Cup finals for the third successive time this summer, the concept of international competition sometimes proves unpersuasive. After all, it is only a marginal element in baseball, American football and basketball.

The teams in Major League Soccer (MLS) are, at present, depleted by call-ups to the United States squad. Derek Rae, a Scot who used to work for the BBC, now commentates for the ABC network and lives in Boston, where, sometimes, he finds himself acting as a mediator. "Supporters of the New England Revolution ask me why they have to put up with a substandard side," he said.

and devotees of soccer believe that this is the last chance to integrate the game into American life. For the moment, MLS is happy to survive and entrench itself. Levels of interest vary across the country. The New England Revolution and the New York/New Jersey Metrostars regularly draw attendances of more than 20,000, but crowds at Kansas City Wizards can drop as low as 4,000. There is diversity, too, in the nature of the audience. MLS sides often depend heavily on South American talent, such as Carlos Valderrama, of Colombia, and Jorge Campos, of Mexico, and ethnic minority communities provide many supporters.

In Ohio, on the other hand, it is the "soccer moms" who underpin suburban enthusiasm for the Columbus Crew. Although the game appeals to a variety of constituencies, little interest has been aroused so far in black people. Given



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The upsets remain province of men's event at French Open

Qualifiers exemplify value of inequality

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS



Hingis had little difficulty in disposing of Babel at Roland Garros yesterday

THE United States, the country that spawned political correctness, stands alone among the tennis grand-slam nations in paying equal prize-money to men and women. A discrepancy is maintained in Great Britain, Australia and here in France, where the case for the status quo required little amplification yesterday. A day punctuated by rain offered plenty of time to consider the merits of equal pay. It was a day when Martina Hingis waltzed past Melke Babel - herself a 6-1, 6-0 winner in the first round - for the loss of just three games; a day when Venus Williams went one better, dismissing Ai Sugiyama, ranked a mere ten places below her, 6-0, 6-2.

Meanwhile, in the men's event, five of the record 11 qualifiers in the second round prepared to create further mayhem. Mariano Zabaleta, who accounted for Petr Korda, and Marat Safin, who toppled Andre Agassi, had already reaffirmed the cliché that there are no easy matches and Jens Knippschild drove the message home yesterday when the German qualifier bested Jim Courier, twice a champion here, in straight sets.

In this respect, world rankings can serve only to confuse. Mere resolution can bridge the numerically vast divide between Korda, world-ranked No. 2, and Zabaleta, ranked 214 places below him. It is nigh on impossible to witness a similar upset in the women's game.

Hingis's match with Babel was a case in point. It took Hingis no time at all to impose her authority, after which she indulged in a series of strokes usually confined to the practice court. She attempted to play shots between her legs, she could afford to make elementary mistakes and she was able to practise her serve-and-volley technique without the slightest fear of reprimand. It was over inside an hour.

Hingis's pleasant afternoon stroll was tempered only by the fact that the sun wasn't shining. On she marched, into the third round of the only grand-slam title outside her possession. "I think I'm doing pretty well so far," Hingis said.

"Competition is better for the spectators. It's better to watch if there are some close matches, but today I showed some really good points at the net, some drop-shots, some other good shots. Even if it's easy, it still looks good."

Jana Novotna, seeded No. 3, had to work a little harder than Hingis. She fended off a first-set flurry from Emilie Loit, a wild-card entrant from France, before racing away with the match 7-5, 6-0. Curiously, however, Novotna felt that the women's seeds' serene procession through the early rounds was down to their collective excellence. "The women players are much more consistent than the men," Novotna ventured.

For her part, Williams argued that her opponent had played well - but that she had played "a little better" in winning 6-0, 6-2. She was detained a mere 50 minutes. For details of interest, journalists often resort to inquiring about contact lenses that change the eye-colour of the user; thus Williams's eyes were the source of some confusion. "Are those green eyes, are they blue?" one scribe asked. "They're supposed to be grey," Williams replied. "Serena [her younger sister] doesn't have this colour."

The great pity about the rain was that thousands of school-children who yesterday enjoyed the run of Roland Garros were left with precious little to savour. There was barely a fleeting glimpse of Marcelo Rios, who improved on his first-round defeat of

Brett Steven to overwhelm Emilio Alvarez, of Spain. Alvarez might have made quite a bit more of this match. He might have set a better example to the children, with his attitude as well as his clothing. With his black T-shirt and headpiece modelled on a knotted handkerchief, the Spaniard resembled a builder's mate after a late night out on the Costa del Sol. He played like one, too, appearing more interested in pulling off spectacular cameos than winning the match.

Rios, who triumphed 6-4, 6-2, 6-2, can play better than this. His timing was slightly off, but the interesting aspect of his performance was his willingness to chase every ball, despite his superiority. Gone is the nonplussed character who would shrug at a passing groundstroke rather than run it down.

Rios, seeded No. 3, next plays Wayne Ferreira, the only man to beat him in the past three months - and then under mitigating circumstances in Hamburg three weeks ago. It was Rios's first match after a five-week absence from injury and Ferreira, although richly talented, will find the Chilean a different proposition this time. Lurking further down the draw for Rios is Albert Costa, the other form player on the circuit. The two, scheduled to play the Italian Open final in Rome until Costa's late withdrawal through injury, almost seemed to be racing to complete their matches yesterday. Costa won by a short-head, beating Marc-Kevin Goellner 6-4, 6-3, 6-1.

Rios and Costa, seeded No. 13, are projected to trade fireworks in the last 16. But the man with most on his mind may be Filip Dewulf, the Belgian qualifier, who reached the semi-finals 12 months ago. Today Dewulf plays Marzio Martelli, who dismissed Goran Ivanisevic in straight sets on Tuesday.

RESULTS FROM ROLAND GARROS

- MEN SINGLES: First round J van Lottum (Hol) bt S Stamenik (Hol) 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 M Zabaleta (Arg) bt P Korda (Cz) 6-0, 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3 A Berasategui (Sp) bt G Stafford (SA) 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-1 G Sclater (Fr) bt R Rensberg (US) 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 8-6 Second round A Costa (Sp) bt M-K Goellner (Ger) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 M Rios (Chile) bt E Alvarez (Sp) 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 W Ferreira (SA) bt M Norman (Sw) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 F Meligeni (It) bt V Spadea (US) 7-6, 7-4, 6-4 J van Herck (Bel) bt J Mass (Sp) 7-6, 7-5

Rusedski plays wild card

GREG RUSEDSKI will defend his Nottingham Open title after accepting a wild-card entry for the event, which starts on June 15. Rusedski could meet Cedric Pioline, of France, who beat the Great Britain No. 1 in the quarter-finals at Wimbledon last year before losing to Pete Sampras in the final. Rusedski had planned to miss the tournament, but said: "I was expecting to play a few more clay-court matches this year and I need more tournament play. So I'll go to Nottingham to get as much practice on grass as I possibly can and win some matches. It will be great to get back onto grass again."

Five of the top 20 players in the world will be at Nottingham - Marcelo Rios, of Chile, Alex Corretja and Felix Mantilla, from Spain, Pioline and Rusedski, Tim Henman, the Great Britain No. 2, has not entered the tournament.

By OUR SPORTS STAFF but may also change his mind and accept a wild card if he recovers quickly from his back injury. There are three wild cards and two special exempt places in the field and Henman would be a welcome addition in the final. Rusedski had planned to miss the tournament, but said: "I was expecting to play a few more clay-court matches this year and I need more tournament play. So I'll go to Nottingham to get as much practice on grass as I possibly can and win some matches. It will be great to get back onto grass again."

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A recipe for peace of mind

Watchdog: The Big Dinner BBC1, 7.00pm

Of the making of Watchdog spin-offs there seems to be no end. Having extended the consumer brief to cover health, cosmetics, and leisure activities, the food business was an obvious next target. Johnathan Maitland, one of the Watchdog regulars, is the presenter and the show comes from a different location each week. As usual with the Watchdog programmes, this one is put together too close to transmission to be previewed. But among the regular spots are a challenge to food critics to do their own cooking, and trying out recipes in best-selling cook books that defeat even the master chefs. Tonight's items include an investigation into food at football grounds, the true story behind genetically modified food and the connection between fish bladders and red wine.

Birding with Bill Oddie BBC2, 8.00pm

Bill Oddie's enjoyable series dispenses with its usual regional format and takes an autobiographical turn, as Oddie recounts his early experiences as a birdwatcher and revisits his old haunts. He even owns up to stealing an egg from a nest, but having got the boyhood misdeed out of his system he settled down to being a responsible and conscientious birder, whose treatise on the subject won him a school natural history prize. A reservoir near Birmingham was his first local patch and he seems to have spent every spare hour there between the ages of 13 to 20, even though it was hardly teeming with birdlife. His other journeys into the past take him to Dungeness in Kent, and two very attractive locations in Norfolk. He says the facilities and mechanics have changed over 40 years but not the enthusiasm.

All the Right Moves BBC2, 8.30pm

Moving home is supposed to come close to divorce and bereavement in the trauma league, but not in this jolly series hosted by the Top Gear presenter Quentin Wilson. The message is that buying and selling properties can be fun, if only you follow the helpful advice dispensed by Wilson and his team.

Rent Four Radio 4, 11.30am

The return of Lucy Flannery's sitcom that won both audience appreciation and awards last year. Judged by its opening episode, Flannery is in form this time, too. The first series depended for its tension on the presence in the Maria (Barbara Flynn) and Richard (Patrick Barlow) household of the lodgers Paul (Dave Lamb) and Ruby (Vivienne Rochester). They have now moved out, but not so you would notice. Ruby confides to Maria that she wants a child, but is not sure if she wants Richard's child, though she would not have a child with anybody else. To this dilemma Maria can only suggest that Ruby might get "another gerbil". As ever, Maria is the emotional punchbag for all around her, her own needs subordinated to those of others.

Riotous Assemblies Radio 4, 8.00pm

The British are not generally known for taking to the streets, which is part of the reason why we regard the behaviour of such groups as French lorry drivers with astonishment. But the poll tax riots and roads protests have shown that the British, especially in modern times, do have a tolerance threshold and when it is breached they will take their argument to the barricades. This three-part series (in France it would be a 30-part series) looks at some of the more significant cases, and starts tonight in 1975, when serious shortages of food brought rioting all over the country. The key players were not men, but housewives in Carlisle, whose position as providers for their menfolk determined their action. Peter Barnard

World Service

7.00am News 7.15 Inlight 7.30 Meridian Books 8.00 News 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.00 News 9.15 (9.45 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 (9.45 only) News in Spanish 9.20 Today 9.25 World Business Report 10.15 You and the Law 10.30 Network 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 Discovery 12.00 Newsweek 12.30pm Waveguide 12.45 From Our Own Correspondent 1.00 News (9.45 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.30 News 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 NewsHour 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitask X-Press 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 (9.45 only) News in German 4.20 The Village Chat Show (9.45 only) News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.05 News 5.15 (9.45 only) News in German 5.15 Inlight 6.30 Record News (9.45 only) News in German 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsweek 7.30 Assignment 8.00 News Summary 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.26 News 8.30 Newsweek 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05pm Inlight 12.30 News 1.00 Newsweek 1.30 Westway 1.45 Britain Today 1.55 World Business Report 2.30 Composer of the Month 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Sports Roundup 4.30 The World Today 5.00 The World Today

Classic FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey, Nick Bailey introduces music for the morning 8.00 Michael Tippett, Michael Tippett presents the music of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests Jane Jones presents favourite music 2.00pm Concerto, Gounod (Cello Concerto) 3.00 Jamie Crook introduces Continuous Classics and Afternoon Concert 5.30pm Newsnight. The latest headlines and sport updates, with John Bunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven, John Bunning introduces classic sounds 9.00pm Evening Concert, Dvořák (Symphony No. 2) 10.00 News 10.05pm News 11.00pm News 11.05pm News 11.10pm News 11.15pm News 11.20pm News 11.25pm News 11.30pm News 11.35pm News 11.40pm News 11.45pm News 11.50pm News 11.55pm News 12.00am News 12.05am News 12.10am News 12.15am News 12.20am News 12.25am News 12.30am News 12.35am News 12.40am News 12.45am News 12.50am News 12.55am News 1.00am News 1.05am News 1.10am News 1.15am News 1.20am News 1.25am News 1.30am News 1.35am News 1.40am News 1.45am News 1.50am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.05am News 2.10am News 2.15am News 2.20am News 2.25am News 2.30am News 2.35am News 2.40am News 2.45am News 2.50am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.05am News 3.10am News 3.15am News 3.20am News 3.25am News 3.30am News 3.35am News 3.40am News 3.45am News 3.50am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.05am News 4.10am News 4.15am News 4.20am 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# Startling camerawork, but are we protected?

You could forgive any viewers who felt, after having seen more of Professor Robert Winston in last night's *The Human Body* (BBC1) than they were bargaining for, that they now understood what Dr Johnson meant when he told Boswell that the Giant's Causeway was worth seeing, but not necessarily worth going to see. Similarly, many viewers might well have decided that Professor Winston's sperm was worth seeing, but must be just by Mrs Winston. Oh, go on then - but does it have to be in such excruciating close-up?

"These are my sperm," declared Winston rather proudly. "Amazingly, about 500 million of them from a single ejaculation (well, you had to take his word for that). With just this ejaculation," he added, more boastfully than was strictly necessary, "it should be possible to impregnate all the fertile women in Western Europe."

But it would be awfully fiddly, wouldn't it? And such a long wait for those at the back of the queue. Showing us film of sperm making its journey to the outside world like a carriage whooshing around a rollercoaster doesn't dramatically further our understanding of fertilisation or childbirth - the subject of the second programme in this seven-ages-of-man series. So we shown the process just because it is now possible to do so? Car radios suffer from this problem. It costs nothing to programme 293 weakable features on to a computer chip, so they do. The result is that car radios are now so complicated that NASA astronauts can fly to the Moon and back without having worked out how to turn down the speakers for the two guys sitting in the back seats of the spaceship. Those special effects tricks created by Hollywood also dull our senses: it is hardly Winston's fault, but it takes a lot to

astonish us nowadays. It was startling to see Philippa Watson's pregnant stomach inflate like a balloon in a minute rather than over nine months - as a result of her being filmed every couple of weeks and then speeding up the film - but you doubt it would have impressed the special effects crews on *Titanic*, or *Men In Black*.

What intrigues me most, however, is that at the beginning of the programme Winston said that more than 100 million acts of sexual intercourse take place each day, resulting in 910,000 conceptions and 400,000 babies. Yet at the end of the programme, after Philippa had given birth to a girl, Winston said that this baby was one of a million born that same day. So what happened to that 400,000 figure? I can only guess that either (a) my sums are wrong, or (b) there are roughly 150 million acts of

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

being delivered just as the independent Commission of Experts, which has been investigating Switzerland's dealings with the Third Reich, confirmed that Swiss central bankers bought gold from the Reichsbank, knowing it was being stolen from Jews. Most people have given up despairing at how the Swiss managed to square humanitarianism with helping Hitler to fund his war, so full credit to Simpson that he can still see at what he termed the Red Cross "weak and cowardly" behaviour.

The Red Cross is - justifiably - remembered with gratitude by thousands of POWs on both sides of the war. But not by Frank Bright. He escaped the gas chambers, but no thanks to the Red Cross. "If you hear the Red Cross is coming," said Bright, "you hope they'll do something, they'll give you food parcels, they'll prevent further transportations, they'll do something. In the end, they

didn't." Switzerland may be in danger of giving neutrality a bad name, but nobody is actually accusing the Red Cross of being the oppressors, only that it turned a blind eye to the people who were - which, when you think of it, is pretty odd behaviour for a humanitarian organisation that was meant to stand up for good against evil.

Boris Johnson, a game *Telegraph* journalist, is fast turning into a man who will stand up for anything, so long as it offers him a chance to be humiliated on television. On last night's *Leviathan* (BBC2), for the purposes of comparing old and new testing methods, Johnson agreed to sit an old-style history O-level (in which he had to write little essays about the significant events of, say, 1066, 1832, 1939, and so on) along with a modern history GCSE (questions based on source materi-

al that is included in the exam paper). He did better on the former. Mark Urban, the presenter, told Boris that the examiner thought he "lacked the technique of extracting relevant detail from the source material". Boris agreed: "Yes, well, that might be a legitimate criticism." Urban: "A worrying one for a journalist." Johnson: "Well, um . . . sure."

It marked the second time in a month that Johnson has been wrong-footed by TV producers. Having acknowledged that he walked into an examiner's trap on *Have I Got News For You* when his friendship with the fraudster Darius Guppy blew up in his face, here he was being told (unfairly) that he lacked a basic journalistic skill. Next thing you know, Professor Winston will ask him to lend a hand on *The Human Body* and we'll all be gaping at 500 million potential Boris Johnsons swimming across our TV screens.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (17751)
  - 7.00 Breakfast News (1) (87935)
  - 9.00 A Date with Fate (1) (2238935)
  - 9.20 Kilroy (1) (2802965)
  - 10.00 The General (42374)
  - 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (8876461)
  - 10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (1795041)
  - 11.30 Who'll Do the Padding? Includes recipes for Black Forest pancakes and summer salad with salmon and herb mayonnaise (1) (7225)
  - 12.00 News (1) regional news and weather (8515460)
  - 12.05pm Wogan's Web Live discussion with Terry Wogan (764043)
  - 1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (80022)
  - 1.30 The Weather Show and weather (1) (13319374)
  - 1.40 The Weather Show (2271732)
  - 1.45 Neighbours Ben comes out of the coma (1) (8530274)
  - 2.10 Ironside Ed Brown is accused of murder (1) (9638896)
  - 3.00 Through the Keyhole (8374)
  - 3.30 Playdays (1) (790731) 3.50 The Littlest Pet Shop (2234029) 4.00 Fievel's American Tails (1) (525772) 4.25 Mr Wymt (1) (885588) 4.40 Goosebumps (1) (2315041) 5.00 Newsround (1) (866549)
  - 5.10 No Sweat (1) (888751)
  - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (470428)
  - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (867)
  - 6.30 Regional News (1) (119)
  - 7.00 Watchdog: Big Dinner Johnathan Maltland presents a new food-orientated consumer series (1) (1683)
  - 7.30 EastEnders Roy's plans come unstuck (1) (813)
  - 8.00 Crime Beat Marilyn Lewis investigates new approaches to monitoring problem families whose anti-social and criminal behaviour makes them the neighbours from Hell (7003)
  - 8.30 Keeping Mum Peggy causes uproar by pinching a clock from one of the neighbours (1) (6138)
  - 9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (855461)
  - 9.05 Nine O'Clock News (1) regional news and weather (851409)
  - 9.35 Men Behaving Badly Tony continues his fruitless attempts to impress Deborah (1) (1) (871408)
  - 10.05 The Ben Elton Show Standup comedy (875886)
  - 10.35 Smith and Jones Outlandish comedy from Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones (1) (1) (861119)
  - 11.00 Question Time David Dimbleby directs the questions to the panel from an audience in Birmingham (250596)
  - 12.05 am The Day of the Triffids (1962) Sci-fi adventure based on John Wyndham's novel about despatching plants taking over the Earth. With Howard Keel, Janet Blair and Nicole Matury. Directed by Steve Sekely (2114037)
  - 1.35 Weather (3849523)
  - 1.40 BBC News 24 (8652900)

- BBC2**
- 6.10am Building in Cells (3014848) 6.35 A Tale of Two Cities (5275119)
  - 7.00 Teletubbies (1) (9477566) 7.25 Richard Scary (9456003) 7.50 The Flintstones (7524480) 8.15 Blue Peter (1) (8474206) 8.35 Funky Frontiers (4705698) 9.00 Buried (2234577) 9.20 Sweet Valley High (1) (8768789) 9.45 Postman Pat (1) (7183461) 10.00 Teletubbies (40916)
  - 10.30 Moon Pilot (1961) Science fiction comedy with Tom Tryon, as an astronaut whose planned lunar orbit is thrown into confusion by a beautiful alien. Directed by James Neilson (8788365)
  - 12.10 pm Cartoons (3429022) 12.30 Working Lunch (149316) 1.00 The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.05 Tales of the Tooth: Faines (1) (14096312) 1.10 The Countrywide Hour (1) (1493515) 2.10 Flightline (1) (79588225) 2.40 News (1) (8333751)
  - 2.45 Wildlife on Two (1) David Attenborough follows the fortunes of itaye, a baby baboon (876664) 3.15 Beautiful Beauties (1) (2951190) 3.25 News (1) (3941787) 3.30 The Victorian Kitchen Garden (1) (225)
  - 4.00 Real Rooms (1) (5255374) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (8258461) 4.55 Eater (8225848) 5.30 Today's the Day (596)
  - 6.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1) (1) (833868) 6.45 Third Rock from the Sun (1) (1) (891732)
  - 7.30 Out and About Mike Embley tries water-skiing in Thorpe (845) WALES: Birding with Bill Oddie
  - 8.00 Brling with Bill Oddie Bill Oddie revisits childhood haunts in Birmingham, Kent and Bakeney Point in Norfolk (1) (5645) WALES: On The House
  - 8.30 All the Right Moves Quentin Tarantino takes the stress out of the property market (1) (7480)
  - 9.00 Doctors at Large Mark gets a first taste of his intended field, gastro-intestinal surgery (1) (4374)
  - 9.30 Icoeman The story of Salomon Andree, whose body was found 33 years after he set off to fly to the North Pole in a hydrogen balloon in 1897 (1) (78118)
  - 10.20 Several Careful Owners (1) 1937 Austin Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (389867)
  - 10.35 Newsnight (1) (992770) 11.20 Late Review (886827) 12.00 The Phil Squires Show (1) (8423271) 12.25am Holiday Weather (5430349)
  - 12.30 Learning Zone: Personal Selection (88962) 1.00 A Level Playing Field? (17523) 1.30 British Car Transplants (39223) 2.00 Art and Design (87252) 4.00 Film Education (18455) 4.30 Marketing in the Film Industry (80748) 5.00 Computers Don't Bite (507555)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (9391867)
  - 9.25 This Morning (1) (2284080)
  - 9.30 Vanessa (1) (2908408)
  - 10.10 This Morning (1) (28702225)
  - 12.15pm Regional News (8700180)
  - 12.30 News (1) and weather (34770)
  - 1.00 Shortland Street (75190)
  - 1.30 Home and Away (1) (33041)
  - 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (3747022) 2.45 Waffle (1) (863190)
  - 3.15 News (1) (3949409)
  - 3.20 Regional News (1) (3939022)
  - 3.25 Potamus Park (1) (3929645) 3.35 The Slow Norris (1) (889312) 3.45 Scooby and Co (1) (1) (821526) 4.10 Brand Spanking New Dog (1) (5261835) 4.40 The Ward: Hospital drama (1) (4577954)
  - 5.10 A Country Practice (841312)
  - 5.40 News (1) and weather (346022)
  - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (749461)
  - 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (877887)
  - 6.25 HTV Weather (390867)
  - 6.30 The West Tonight (515)
  - 7.00 Emmerdale (1) (8751)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 1.00pm A Country Practice (75190)
  - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (8714747)
  - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (841312)
  - 6.25 Central News (757480)
  - 6.55-7.00 Lifetime (93577)
  - 10.45 Dharma and Greg (825003)
  - 11.15 Friday Night Fever (822916)
  - 11.45 Still in Bed with MedMer (854515)
  - 12.15am Tales from the Crypt (88417)
  - 1.25 Not Fade Away (2650900)
  - 2.30 Planet Rock Profiles (9774788)
  - 2.55 Box Office America (9786523)
  - 3.20 We Can Work It Out (96637455)
  - 3.45 Best of British Motor Sport (17356)
  - 4.15 Central Jobfinder '98 (8639328)
  - 5.20 Asian Eye (1802252)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.27pm-12.30 Illuminations (8629683)
  - 1.00 Emmerdale (75190)
  - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (8714747)
  - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (841312)
  - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (19461)
  - 10.45 Absolutely Loaded (825003)
  - 11.15 Pulling Power (822916)
  - 11.45 Street Legal (805461)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.15-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (8700190)
  - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (841312)
  - 6.00 Meridian Tonight (835)
  - 6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (515)
  - 10.35 Meridian News and Weather (305652)
  - 10.50 The Pier (24256)
  - 11.15 Go Fishing with John Wilson (822916)
  - 11.45 House of Fun (854515)
  - 12.15am Tales from the Crypt (88417)
  - 5.00 Fresscreen (79875)
- ANGLO**
- As HTV West except:
  - 1.00pm-1.30 Hope and Gloria (75190)
  - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (841312)
  - 6.25 Anglia Weather (381596)
  - 6.25 Anglia News (757480)
  - 6.55-7.00 What's On (793577)
  - 10.45 Go Fishing with John Wilson (825003)
  - 11.15 Cover Story (822916)
  - 11.45 Midnight Caffe (805461)
- STARTS**
- 7.00am The Bigger Breakfast (70645)
  - 9.00 Rocco's Modern Life (93935) 9.30 Saved by the Bell (85596) 10.00 The Secret World of Alex Mack (3843428) 10.40 Moesha (8888206) 11.10 Madison (7752645) 11.40 Ricki Lake (11790) 12.30 Sesame Street (32312) 1.00 St. Meethran (1138022) 1.15 Sam Tan (1131577) 1.30 Estelzoff Yr Urd Llyn A Eilffordd 1998 (420645) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (428) 4.30 Countdown (312) 5.00 Pump (157) 5.30 Pet Rescues (824) 6.00 Newsworld (110825) 6.10 Hero (308190) 7.00 Pabol y Cwm (863751) 7.25 Estelzoff Yr Urd Llyn A Eilffordd 1998 (8752954) 8.30 Newsworld (9848) 9.00 Dawson's Creek (8653) 10.00 Killer Net (1428022) 11.05 To the Ends of the Earth (15325) 12.05am Michael Hayes (8405894) 1.00 Dispatches (5655815) 1.50 Dhwedd

- CHANNEL 5**
- 5.55am Sesame Street (1) (7966157)
  - 7.00 The Bigger Breakfast (70645)
  - 9.00 Rocco's Modern Life (1) (93935) 9.30 Saved by the Bell (85596) 10.00 Alex Mack (3843428) 10.40 Moesha (8888206) 11.10 Madison (7752645)
  - 11.40 The Bigger Breakfast (8202866)
  - 12.00 Sesame Street (13799)
  - 12.30pm Light Lunch Lunch and chat with celebrities (1) (1) (40586)
  - 1.30 Exposed A photographic look at the British love of pets (13326664)
  - 1.45 Where the Sidewalk Ends (1950, b/w) Film noir with Dana Andrews and Gene Tarry. A violent New York policeman battles a suspect to death and tries to frame a mob boss for the murder (1) (29060428)
  - 3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (393) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (428) 4.30 Countdown (1) (1640190) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Tried to Hide My Baby (1) (8210916) 5.30 Pet Rescues: Rehousing problems (1) (1) (664)
  - 6.00 Roseanne (1) (1) (577)
  - 6.30 Hollyoaks Lucy has made a huge business mistake (1) (157)
  - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (517200)
  - 7.50 Deadline 2000 (1) (749041)
  - 8.00 Celebrity Countdown Football manager Ron Atkinson and TV presenter Eamonn Holmes compete for the prize (1) (3041)
  - 8.30 Real Gardens Following the progress of people's gardens around the country. With Mandy Don, Lisa Davis and Carol Kavan (1) (8948)
  - 9.00 Dispatches An undercover report into a worldwide black-market network for World Cup tickets (1) (769883)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Skysetec decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.92075 GHz, sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News and Sport (3880393)
  - 7.00 WideWorld (1) (3074954) 7.30 Milkshake! (3829428) 7.35 Wmzie's House (1) (787979) 8.00 Hawkzoo (1457190) 8.30 Dappledawn Farm (1) (1456461) 9.00 Realm of the Giant Salamander (1) (1) (1470041)
  - 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (8248916) 10.20 Sunset Beach (1) (2172585) 11.10 Lezza (8750515)
  - 12.05 5 News at Noon (1) (146757)
  - 12.30pm Family Affairs Maria confronts Claire (1) (1) (1454935)
  - 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (3073225)
  - 1.30 Sons and Daughters (413206)
  - 2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford (3715732)
  - 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (1483225)
  - 3.30 High Noon (1952, b/w) Stars Gary Cooper as Marshal Will Kane, whose wedding celebrations are interrupted by news that his arch enemy is arriving on the midway train bent on revenge. With Gary Kelly, Thomas Mitchell and Lloyd Bridges. Directed by Frank Zinnemann (821870)
  - 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (9699190)
  - 6.00 100 Per Cent (2264041)



Judy Finnigan presents (7.30pm)

- 7.30 We Can Work It Out How to get the best price when booking an hotel (799)
- 8.00 The Bill Someone is encouraging girls to participate in underage sex (1) (2799)
- 8.30 Undercover Customs How British Customs officers participated in an international operation to intercept the Cali drugs cartel of Colombia (1) (1) (1206)
- 9.00 Touching Evil (2/2) Oregon's daughter and estranged wife are threatened by an anguished father (1) (1111)
- 10.00 Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (1) (999190)
- 10.05 News (1) and weather (880654)
- 10.35 Regional News (1) (305472)
- 10.45 WALES: Wales This Week (825003)
- 10.45 The Plain (1) (825003)
- 11.15 WALES: Strangely Scientific (822916)
- 11.15 The West This Week (822916)
- 11.45 WALES: We Can Work It Out (1) (84515)
- 11.45 Undercurrents (1) (1) (854515)
- 12.15am Public Morals (98417)
- 12.25 Jerry Springer Show: A Woman In Labor Confronts a Mistress (1) (2400788)
- 1.30 SFX (1) (2851891)
- 1.55 Planet Mirth (1) (2861078)
- 2.25 Not Fade Away (869504)
- 3.20 The Chart Show (1) (2254639)
- 4.00 Vanessa (1) (1) (8105542)
- 4.35 Cybernet (17714788)
- 5.00 TV Nightscene (79875)
- 5.30 News (38455)

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY 1**
- 7.00am Tabloid Teenage Alan Fighters from Beverly Hills (21239) 7.30 Mega (40428) 8.00 Mega (27818) 8.30 Games (111774) 8.45 The Simpsons (960515) 9.05 Games World (792383) 10.00 Animal (38912) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (28948) 12.00 Married with Children (20003) 12.30pm M\*A\*S\*H (83036) 1.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (38255) 1.30 Jerry Jones (87121) 4.00 Oprah (73119) 5.30 Star Trek: The Next Generation (7188) 6.00 The Nanny (5119) 6.30 Married with Children (3789) 7.00 The Simpsons (8619) 7.30 Real Time (2893) 8.00 America's Funniest Home Videos (1984) 8.30 Star Trek: The Next Generation (30014) 9.00 Police Rescue (15691) 10.00 Long Play (840184)
  - SKY BOX OFFICE
  - SKY pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0890 800898. Each film costs £2.99 per viewing.
  - SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (transponder 26) The Saint (1897)
  - SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (transponder 40) Batman and Robin (1997)
  - SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (transponder 58) Honey, We Shrunk Ourselves (1997)
  - SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (transponder 58) Freeway (1986) 1.00 Police Rescue (15691) 10.00 Long Play (840184)
  - SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
  - 8.00am The Blue Bird (1979) (52941770) 7.40 Jane and the Last City (1987) (6726564) 8.30 Dangerous Curves (1988) (421780) 11.00 Ghostbusters (1984) (82190) 1.00pm Woman of Straw (1984) (25271) 2.00 Blue Rodeo (1988) (86374) 3.00 Ghostbusters (1984) (82654) 7.00 Last of the Dogmen (1989) (252323) 8.00 Blue Rodeo (1988) (2512383) 10.45 Blue Rodeo (1988) (252323) 12.00pm Jailbreak (1987) (73845) 2.30 Higher Learning (1995) (414650) 4.30 Dangerous Curves (1988) (18148)
  - SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

- (32157) 10.30 Personal My Lovely (1940) (82941) 12.00 The Sting II (1985) (85190) 2.00pm Bond and Bond (1941) (20819) 4.00 The Pirates of Blood River (1988) (882849) 6.00 US Gals: The Members (8875654) 12.00 Equinox (772645) 12.30am Trans World Sport (1) (707291) 1.30 Sports Centre (512417) 2.00 Close
- SKY SPORTS 3
- 12.00 Wrestling (88137429) 1.00pm Cycling (88077428) 1.30 Film TV (881785) 2.00 Wrestling (87915899) 3.00 Golf Extra (8789030) 4.00 Formula One (8748922) 5.00 Film TV (2567196) 6.00 Motorcycling (8657916) 7.00 Film TV (8819545) 8.00 Equinox (8138157) 10.00 Sub-7 (7980206) 11.30 Close
- EUROSPORT
- 7.30am Athletics (87964) 8.30 Speedway (84918) 9.30 Motorcycling (12883) 10.00 Live Tennis (146411) 1.30pm French Open (79870) 2.00 Tennis (1) (800138) 4.00 Live and Unleashed (1988) (869732) 1.30am Live Father, Live Son (1987) (340097) 3.10 Putter (188) (823021)
- TNT
- 8.00pm Foreign Affairs (1989) (3505856) 11.00 In the Cool of the Day (1983) (86170374) 12.45am Shows of the Fisherman (1988) (4255436) 3.30 Foreign Affairs (1989) (66981748) 5.00 Close
- SKY SPORTS 1
- 7.00am Sports Centre (7822) 7.30 Wrestling (84028) 8.30 Sports Centre (88374) 9.00 Sports News (8564) 9.30 Wrestling (27516) 10.00 Watersports World (83918) 11.00 Trans World Sport (87489) 12.00 American Football (44274) 2.30 World of Super League (17948) 4.30 Football (3816) 6.00 American Football (87428) 6.30 Sports Centre (4408) 8.30 Futbol Mundial (8480) 9.30 Trans World Sport (85674) 9.30 Formula One (1887) 10.00 Sports Centre (70118) 10.30 Cycling (88677) 11.00 Rngside (94845) 12.00 Sports Centre (78994) 1.00 World Wide Rugby (883358) 1.40 Sports Centre (80542) 4.30 Close
- SKY SPORTS 2
- 7.00am Athletics (8822180) 7.30 Sports Centre (841225) 8.00 Racing News (281183) 8.30 Cycling (89106) 9.00 American Football (12400) 12.00am Football (106198) 2.00 Futbol Mundial (85172) 2.30 Watersports World (841723) 3.30 In-

- and Motorcycling (8687428) 8.00 Haddock (841074) 10.00 The Saint (802844) 11.00 Haveli Foot (200512) 12.00 Coronation Street (1) (1) (800138) 1.00 Second Thoughts (200439) 1.30 The Bases (1515777) 2.00 Haddock (802844) 3.00 Formula One (8748922) (872751) 4.00 Haveli Foot (1) (879188) 5.00 The Saint (470654) 6.00 Families (103888) 6.30 Coronation St (1) (800138) 7.00 Doctor in Charge (4741683) 7.30 Sports (1919022) 8.00 Derry and Mary (103888) 8.30 The End of the Earth (87807) 9.00 The New Comedians (8181770) 10.00 The Saint (151577) 11.00 Granada Men and Motors (888935)
- CARLTON SELECT (CABLE)
- 8.00pm Blockbusters (2875190) 8.30 Good Luck (5712461) 9.00 Biker Gang (5719374) 9.30 A Country Practice (841312) 10.00 The Saint (151577) 11.00 London Bridge (828854) 12.00 Disney (57428138) 8.00 The Bourne (828854) 10.00 Rage against the Odds (5875212) 11.00 Live at Jonglun (702103) 11.40 Not the Nine O'Clock News (887454) 12.00am Art (860345) 2.50 Shopping (8288417)
- GRANADA PLUS
- 8.00pm The Box (4937652) 7.00 E1 Mysteres and Scandals (200715) 7.30

- SATELLITE AND CABLE**
- DISNEY CHANNEL**
- 8.00am Bear in the Big Blue House (7783)
  - 8.30 Jungle Cubs (8481) 7.00 News (98190) 7.30 Pepper Ann (117225) 8.00 Brand Spanking New Dog (19459) 8.30 News (98190) 9.00 Teen Angel (19459) 9.30 Boy Meets World (9845) 10.00 Student Bodies (103888) 10.30 The Sandlot (44208) 11.00 News, I Struck the Kids (887981) 2.45 Nightmare Ned (8591898) 3.00 Timon and Pumbaa (1888) 3.30 Brand Spanking New Dog (1518) 4.00 Pepper Ann (4052) 4.30 News (8288) 5.00 Student Bodies (44208) 5.30 Student Bodies (44208) 6.00 News (98190) 6.30 Boy Meets World (9845) 7.00 News (98190) 7.30 News (98190) 8.00 News (98190) 8.30 News (98190) 9.00 News (98190) 9.30 News (98190) 10.00 News (98190) 10.30 News (98190) 11.00 News (98190) 11.30 News (98190) 12.00 News (98190)

- (553022) 4.00 Mortal Kombat (565517) 5.00 Concessions (860848) 6.00 Ene. Insular (1397949) 7.00 Close
- CARTOON NETWORK**
- All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 6.00pm to 8.00pm seven days a week.
- NICKELODEON**
- From Beam to 7pm We Watch Your Own Week on Nickelodeon for just one week! Which will be the most popular cartoon character with viewers?
- TROUBLE**
- 7.00am Batman 7.30 Earthworm Jim 8.00 California Dreams 8.30 Hang Time 9.00 USA High 9.30 Heartbreak High 10.30 Eek! Power 11.00 Batman 11.30 Earthworm Jim 12.00 Saver 12.30pm Heartbreak High 2.30 Sweet 16 3.00 California Dreams 4.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air 4.30 Saved by the Bell 5.00 Hey Arnold 5.30 USA High 6.00 Hang Time 6.30 Bangs 6.45 On the Make 7.00 Saved by the Bell 7.30 Fresh Prince of Bel Air 8.00 Close
- CHALLENGE TV**
- 8.00pm Crossroads 8.30 Family Days Out 8.45 News (98190) 9.00 Family Days Out 9.15 News (98190) 9.30 Family Days Out 9.45 News (98190) 10.00 The Crystal Maze 9.15 Strike It Lucky (1294954) 10.15 Bravo's Brats (129119) 10.30 Real News (702139) 11.00 FILM: Night Train (1988) (820189) (889159) 9.30 Ultra Science (285157) 10.00 Formula One (8544225) 11.00 News (98190) 11.30 News (98190) 12.00 News (98190) 12.30 News (98190) 1.00 Crocodile Hunter (7854417)
- BHAVO**
- 8.00pm The A-Team (8258428) 9.00 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (888822) 9.30 Cop (8258428) 10.00 The Barrister (1294954) 10.15 Bravo's Brats (129119) 10.30 Real News (702139) 11.00 FILM: Night Train (1988) (820189) (889159) 9.30 Ultra Science (285157) 10.00 Formula One (8544225) 11.00 News (98190) 11.30 News (98190) 12.00 News (98190) 12.30 News (98190) 1.00 Crocodile Hunter (

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Leicestershire  
into semi finals

# SPORT

**TENNIS 50**  
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inequality of  
women's game



THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

Victory over Morocco boosts England morale after Wright injury fears fade

## Owen provides happy ending

Another record falls to youth

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MICHAEL Owen, at 18 years and 164 days, became the youngest player to score for England with his goal against Morocco yesterday. The Liverpool forward beat the previous record set by Tommy Lawton, who was 19 years and six days old when he scored a penalty against Wales in Cardiff on October 22, 1938.

"Having been the youngest player to play for England, it was great to become the youngest to score," Owen, who was injured in a collision with the goalkeeper, said. "I can't remember anything about the first half. The physio said he thought I had been knocked out, but I can remember the goal. It's about the only thing I can remember."

It is the latest in a long line of records that Owen has broken. He beat Gary Speed's record of being the youngest player to represent England when he played his first match just after his eighth birthday. In 1995, he beat the England record of goals in schoolboy internationals.

Owen marked his debut for England under the last season by scoring all four goals in England's 4-0 win against Northern Ireland and scored on his FA Cup Premier League debut for Liverpool against Wimbledon. He first trained with the full England squad in October 1997 and made his debut against Chile on February 11 aged 18 years and 59 days - England's youngest player for more than 100 years. Yesterday was his third England appearance.

The bookmakers were quick to react to Owen's goal. William Hill made him a 25-1 chance to be the World Cup's leading scorer. Following their victory over Morocco, England remain 7-1 joint-second favourites for the World Cup with William Hill who also offer France, Germany and Italy at 7-1 with Brazil the 11-4 favourites.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said he felt that his side had begun to assert themselves ten minutes before half-time. "We weathered the storm and eventually the fans turned against their team."

England ..... 1  
Morocco ..... 0

FROM OLIVER HOLT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT  
IN CASABLANCA

LIKE Bogart and Bergman before them, Glenn Hoddle and his England side flirted with calamity in Casablanca last night before they groped their way to something approaching a happy ending. By the end, even the fog of despair that seemed to have enveloped them when Ian Wright limped off with what appeared to be a hamstring injury midway through the first half, was beginning to lift.

The message from the England camp last night was that it would still be foolish to discount Wright from the final



World Cup squad of 22 that Glenn Hoddle will announce in La Manga on Monday. He may have left the pitch with an ice-pack strapped to his leg, but the injury is said to be minor and capable of healing in time for England's first match against Tunisia on June 15.

Even if Wright's chances of going to France have been diminished, England showed enough courage and commitment after his substitution to suggest they could yet prosper in France.

Their 1-0 victory over a skilful home side, courtesy of a clinically-taken goal by Michael Owen - his first for his country in only his fourth appearance - will provide them with the morale-booster that they were so desperately searching for.

There was also great significance in the cultured performances of Steve McMan-



Dublin, one of England's successes in a much-changed side, contests possession with Rossi in the 1-0 victory over Morocco in Casablanca. Photograph: Marc Aspland

man, who should have played his way into Hoddle's squad with this display, and Dion Dublin and Sol Campbell, who enhanced their claims, too.

The capacity crowd had been packed into the stadium for two hours by the time that the match kicked off under

overcast skies. They roared out their approval for a team that has lost only three times in their last 23 games and which, on this performance, will make Scotland's task in their attempts to qualify for a World Cup group that also includes Brazil and Norway all the tougher.

England started with only two of the team who had taken part in the tepid draw with Saudi Arabia last Saturday. The biggest surprise in the line-up was the inclusion of Ince, who had injured an ankle in training the day before and had it heavily strapped. He took the field as captain, showing no ill-effects. Hoddle also included Graeme Le Saux, back after injury, McManaman, in a central midfield role, and Dublin in preference to Les Ferdinand.

In the face of the passion of the Moroccans, England seemed to wilt in the early stages. They were tentative and palpably unsure of themselves, misplacing passes, mistiming runs, misreading the intentions of their teammates. Gascoigne, starting an England match for the first

time since the draw with Italy in Rome last October, was especially culpable.

Before ten minutes had elapsed, Keown nearly played Southgate into trouble with an overhit pass and, for the first 20 minutes of the half, all the dedicated band of England supporters had to cheer was an improvised, flicked corner from Gascoigne that allowed Anderson the chance to aim a rare shot at goal.

The problems, though, were only just beginning. In the 24th minute, Wright, chasing back to try to tackle Saber along the touchline, pulled up suddenly and fell to the floor. He lay there in front of the England bench, a pitiful sight, holding his head in his hands. His team-mates rushed to console him as he was given treatment and eventually he limped disconsolately off the pitch. He had only had time to strap an ice-pack to the injured hamstring when he was stopped in his tracks by an incident that befell his replacement, Owen.

Owen, who would almost certainly have been in the final 22 without the injury to

Wright, hurried on to a through-ball from Le Saux and was brought crashing to the ground in a sickening collision with Benzakri.

Owen appeared to have been knocked unconscious and Dublin had the presence of mind to roll him immediately on to his side to stop him

England will face competition to host the 2006 World Cup from South Africa after the country's Government yesterday agreed to back a bid to take the finals to Africa for the first time. Fifa, the world governing body, yesterday said that Joao Havelange would be made honorary president.

swallowing his tongue. The England players and the referee gestured that the stretcher should be brought on urgently, but Owen was able to walk groggily to the touchline and returned to the fray.

England at last forged a half-chance in the first minute of the second half when Dublin headed Le Saux's free kick

just over the bar. Owen was denied a penalty when the referee ignored his claims for a push in the box and then McManaman continued the mini-revival, beating a defender with a dribble and then freeing Owen, who had strayed marginally offside.

In the 52nd minute, though, Morocco nearly took the lead when Rokki allowed the ball to sit up for him and struck a fierce volley from 25 yards that had Flowers backpedalling but just cleared the bar.

Seven minutes after that, though, England were rewarded for their renewed vitality. McManaman, so often spurned by Hoddle and so often an under-achiever for his country, won a ball in midfield through sheer persistence, and just as it seemed it was about to drift away from him, he flicked a delightful pass forward to Owen.

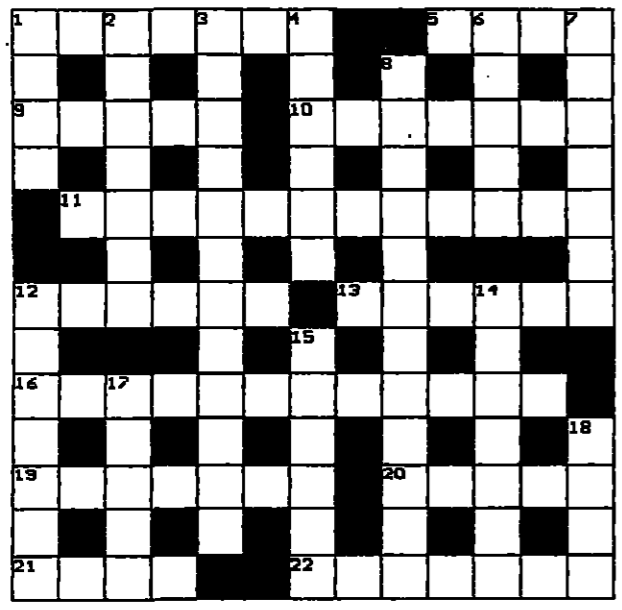
Owen tricked his marker, turned him and set off for goal. It was clear no one could catch him and he sidefooted his shot calmly past Benzakri to put England into the lead. McManaman's delighted response showed just how sig-

nificant his part in the goal might be for his prospects of making Hoddle's final squad.

**ENGLAND (3-4-2):** T Flowers (Blackburn Rovers); M Keown (Arsenal); G Southgate (Preston North End); S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); D Anderson (Tottenham Hotspur); P Gascoigne (Blackburn Rovers); G Le Saux (Chelsea); A Dallas (Liverpool); S McManaman (Tottenham Hotspur); G Le Saux (Chelsea); D Dublin (Coventry City); S L Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur); T Wright (Preston); M Owen (Liverpool, 25).

**MOROCCO (4-4-2):** D Benzakri (PS Sentia); A Saber (Sporting Lisbon); Y Bessouf (Rennes); D Negrouz (Bari); A Hadjoui (Bari); S Chiba (Compostelle); G Amine (Mouloudia); P Tahar (Wydad Casablanca); Y Crago (FC Porto); A Quassi (March 1950); S Bessouf (Deportivo La Coruna); R Haddad (SCCA); A B Khattabi (Hesmeren, 62).  
Referee: M Ghani (Tunisia).

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1417

- ACROSS**  
1 Jug; baseball player (7)  
5 Improve, repair (4)  
9 Take place (5)  
10 Grow fast; terribly with gunfire (5,2)  
11 Obstacle race (12)  
12 Exactly; some Kipling stories (4,2)  
13 Talk rubbish; a pancake (6)  
16 Second sight (12)  
19 Zambia/Zimbabwe border river (7)  
20 Part of tree, of elephant (5)  
21 Tiny amount; Gk. letter (4)  
22 Faithfulness (7)
- DOWN**  
1 Piece of land; storyline (4)  
2 Lat. historian, compressed style (7)  
3 Doctors' road, London (6,6)  
4 Outcome (6)  
6 Run not off bat (5)  
7 Run down (resources) (7)  
8 With insouciance (12)  
12 Water-jet bath (7)  
14 Based on actuality (7)  
15 Of the community; a friendly gathering (6)  
17 Confess to; allow entry (5)  
18 (Give) approval (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1416**  
ACROSS: 1 Regalia 5 Rabid 8 Burst 9 Benefit  
10 Crevasse 11 Lash 13 Autograph book 16 Cube  
17 Downst 20 Puccini 21 Lathi 22 Ebony 23 Lipping  
DOWN: 1 Rebecca 2 Gorse 3 Lethargy 4 Ambassadorial  
5 Rank 6 Buffalo 7 Ditch 12 Chorlies 14 Tobacco  
15 Kipling 16 Copse 18 Tutsi 19 Wiry

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## Door left open for Goram

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN NEW JERSEY

RARELY has the break-up of a relationship been suffused with so much harmony. On Tuesday, Andy Goram, the goalkeeper who has been beleaguered by newspaper coverage of his private life, chose to leave the Scotland squad that is preparing for the World Cup with two friendly matches in the United States. The Rangers player also announced his retirement from international football, but there have been no accusations of betrayal from the Scotland manager.

Craig Brown has been intent only on maintaining the possibility of rehabilitation for Goram. Although the goalkeeper, 34, had also withdrawn from the party before a European championship qualifying game against Greece in August 1995, Brown's reaction to the latest departure is one not just of tolerance, but of respect.

"If this had happened at the World Cup, we would not have been allowed to bring in a replacement goalkeeper," the manager said. "We have to give him credit for making an early decision that cannot have been easy for him. He could have stayed on and landed us in the soup in

France. It's a sacrifice because it would have been possible for him to go to the World Cup and just collect his share of any bonuses that were due.

"If he comes back at a future date and tells me that he is settled, that he has got a new club and wants to be reconsidered, then I will be happy to do so." Goram's place in the party has been given to Jonathan Gould, of Celtic, who arrived in the United States yesterday. It is Goram, however, who remains the subject of debate.

Brown's sympathy towards



Gould: replacing Goram

him will incur hostility from those who believe that the goalkeeper is guilty of a disloyalty that cannot be pardoned. The manager, however, is resolved to give full weight to what he termed "extenuating circumstances". The reference was to the bombardment of phone calls from journalists that have been occasioned by reports of Goram's relationship with a woman who used to work for Celtic.

Goram seems to have felt that the attention was impinging on the squad's preparations and he handed Brown a letter announcing his decision on Tuesday morning. "I told him that he was being hasty, but he was adamant that he had to get away," the manager said. It could be that Goram was eager to escape from more than just newspaper inquiries.

These have been particularly turbulent months for a man whose life is rarely calm. His association with Rangers, whom he joined from Hibernian in 1991, ended recently when he was not offered a new contract. Goram is therefore in search of a new club at a moment when his form has wavered. His last match for

Rangers, the Tennents Scottish Cup final, brought a 2-1 defeat by Heart of Midlothian.

With his country, Goram was no longer sure of a place in the team. Jim Leighton, of Aberdeen, had been first choice in most of the World Cup qualifying matches and there has been little cause to replace him. In consequence, Goram may have suspected that a World Cup of frustrating inactivity lay before him.

The contest for selection has been keen. Goram was preferred for Euro 96 and Leighton, recalling that decision, recently admitted: "I cried my eyes out for three days." The risk of a repetition of such misery is virtually gone and Leighton, if fit, will be between the posts for the opening game of the World Cup finals, against Brazil on June 10.

The knowledge brought relief, but did not remove the poignancy. "I've been pals with Andy since he came into the Scotland squad in 1984," Leighton said, "and the friendship is not in doubt. Once he's had a good break and found a new club, this will all be in the past. The players would welcome him back."

Victim of life, page 49

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ARTS ..... 35-41  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 45  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 26  
SPORT ..... 48-54.56  
STYLE ..... 22  
EDUCATION ..... 47

**Blair and PoWs to have talks**  
Tony Blair is to hold talks with former Japanese POWs to smooth the dispute that has dogged the visit to Britain of Emperor Akihito. The Emperor and the Empress yesterday visited New Gardens, lunched at No 10 and gave a banquet at the V & A. Page 11

**AA may reform**  
The Automobile Association is to consider reform of its process from members who are not satisfied with its behaviour. Page 29

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